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FORMER ASF chairman David Hill, who has been seen at a number of NSL games in recent weeks is back in big time soccer. Yesterday *The Australian* newspaper ran a supplement

announcing the Soccer Expo for June this year -- with David Hill as its consultant. "I've never been away," the controversial Hill told *Inside Soccer*. "But the Expo will be a great event."



MANFRED Schaefer became this Ericsson Cup season's fourth coaching casualty as the horrendous run of bad luck suffered by his Adelaide Sharks cost him his job. The sacking was foretold

by Sharks owner Con Makris who went public in the press. The Sharks have been reeling from a catalogue of behind the scenes problems for several weeks.

Full story page 11

HILL IS BACK

MANNIE HAS GONE

Demons not ready for Parra ... yet

PARRAMATTA Leagues club looks like being added to the club roster for next season's Er-

icsson Cup, even although it hasn't got a ground, coach, team or name.

In last week's *Inside Soccer* Vince Balzon confirmed Parramatta Eagles interest in backing the club which would play out of Parramatta Stadium if admitted.

And the latest speculation links Blacktown City with the bid also.

But Ken Schembri denied that any approach had been made to his club.

"No, no-one has said anything to us," said the NSW Super league club administrator.

"I suppose it would be of interest to discuss it at board level but so far no approach, or discussion by us, has taken place."

A previous combined bid had been entered by Blacktown and Parramatta with the support of Leeds United but in the wake of what has become known as the Jamie McMassters Affair the two NSW clubs have distanced themselves totally from any involvement with Leeds.

SOLD

By Tony Moffitt

THE Newcastle Breakers Football team was sold on the weekend, according to unconfirmed reports that are sweeping the Australian soccer industry.

In one of the club's most dramatic weeks since its inception, claims, counter claims, denials, speculation, and unconfirmed rumours have been running rife.

According to the most dramatic rumour, the deal to sell the team was sealed during the team's away trip to Perth.

The Breakers played Perth over the weekend.

It is believed that representatives from the Sydney bid group flew with team officials to the west coast and, whilst away from the media spotlight, confirmed an agreement to sell the team.

Despite repeated efforts, Breakers Chairman, Bill Collins was uncontactable, and unavailable for comment on the unconfirmed speculation.

Rumours about the closure of the sale reached boiling point last Friday when a Breakers

commit to any promotional activities in the near future "because the team has been sold".

The club official said that any immediate marketing activities by the club were being put on hold because "new owners would be in place before the next Breakers home game".

The Breakers play Sydney Olympic in Newcastle this weekend.

The rumoured sale news comes in a drama-filled week at Newcastle.

According to highly informed sources within the Australian soccer world, one of the men linked to the bid to buy the Newcastle Breakers is 50-year-old Sydney businessman, Morris McCallister.

Inside Soccer tracked down Mr McCallister over the weekend about the speculation.

Mr McCallister denied the speculation: "The information is wrong. I am not an investor, not a financier, or anything like that. I'm not putting in any money at all."

Mr McCallister also

ties.

He would not comment on whether he was aware of who was involved in the bid.

"I have no knowledge, and no comment," Mr McCallister said.

Mr McCallister is respected in Sydney soccer circles for his work as an administrator of the Sydney Cosmos two seasons ago.

He then joined the organisation at Leichhardt Tigers in a management role.

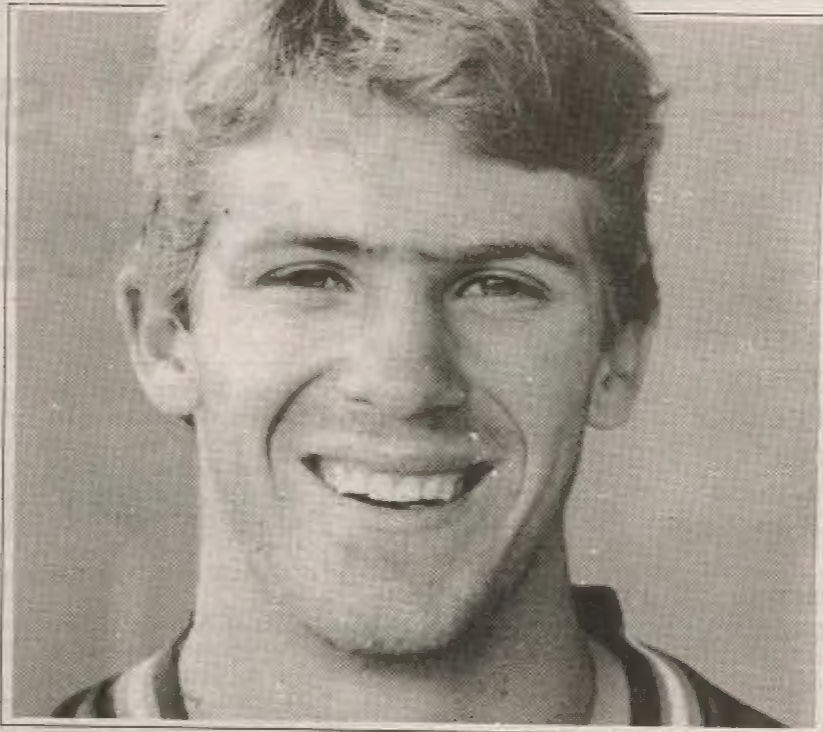
It is a position he still currently holds.

Mr McCallister did, however, confirm his passion for soccer - and Newcastle's brand of soccer in particular.

"The Breakers are my National Soccer League team," Mr McCallister confessed.

"I love their brand of football. They play with a real Australian passion. It's a hard thing to put my finger on. It's their style and their attitude. I love the way they play."

Mr McCallister is also equally enthusiastic about the supporters of



Glenn Sprod: the Breakers captain plays with passion and commitment

place for a top-of-the-line football team.

"The people up there are very passionate and very supportive."

According to *Inside Soccer* sources, the bid figure to buy the Newcastle Breakers team is thought to be around \$400,000.

It is also understood

stadium for four years, with an option for a further four years.

The mystery group has an option to purchase the team which expires in the middle of February.

Earlier in the week, former Chairman of Soccer Australia, David Hill, denied his own involvement in an alternative bid for the team.

Mr Hill told *Inside Soccer* that he had been asked by a group to assess a possible purchase of the team.

Mr Hill told the group that such a purchase would not be a wise investment.

"I think the Newcastle

Breakers are a great investment," Mr Hill explained carefully.

"It was simply a matter that the bid group I was representing was unsuited to investing in a soccer team."

"Such an investment requires a lot of dedication and experience with soccer and its administration."

"For such people, I believe Newcastle Breakers are one of the very best investments going around."

"But for the group who asked me to investigate the possibility, the two parties were not suited."

"I love the Breakers brand of football. They play with a real Australian passion"

official said that the Breakers were unable to

denied being the facilitator between the two par-

the team.

"It's simply the ideal

that a key condition of the deal is a lease on the

JOINT VENTURE WORLD CUP BID

By Peter Auf der Heyde

GERMAN Football Federation President Egidius Braun is to pursue the idea of a joint venture between Germany and South Africa for the 2006 World Cup bid.

Braun, in Cape Town for an executive meeting of the European Football Union (UEFA), said the idea would see Germany bidding for 2006, while South Africa receives German help for a 2010 bid.

"While I am in South Africa I will speak to my South African friends in the football association and that will be one of the possibilities we will be discussing," he said.

"It would make a lot of sense for such a joint venture, but whether it is possible remains to be seen. Both countries have political motives in bidding for the 2006 World Cup.

"Both are serious in their attempt in being

granted the right to host the World Cup and as things stand at the moment, both countries are pursuing their bid."

Braun said it was important that the bidding remains as a rivalry between friends and does not escalate into "war".

Earlier UEFA backed the German candidacy for the 2006 World Cup.

General Secretary Gerhard Aigner said after an executive meeting of the body on Tuesday that the German bid had been known well before South Africa put in a bid.

"By the time the South Africans announced their intentions, UEFA had already backed Germany."

Both UEFA and CAF have also strongly spoken out against Sepp Blatter's bid to have a two yearly World Cup.

"We won't be second best"

By John White

MARCONI soccer manager Frank Labbozzetta has made a stand which he feels should be copied by other Ericsson Cup clubs before the game goes broke.

Speaking from his club's luxurious west Sydney HQ, the long-serving soccer official defended his club's decision not to pay what he feels are outrageous wage claims.

"There are players who are asking for stupid money," he said.

"I ask you, are they worth it?"

"Would any of these players fill our stands?"

"If Maradona was going to come and play in Australia, or a Kevin Keegan, or a player with a name like that then we are talking something different - but the players who are asking huge wages are not like that.

"They do not have international reputations.

"I do not mean any disrespect to these players but they are asking for money which the game just cannot afford."

Labbozzetta, who is

Marconi boss calls for "sanity" to be brought back into player payments

well liked and respected within the game's inner circles, has called for a halt to the escalation of player wages.

It is no secret that former Marconi player Matthew Bingley was sounding out the possibility of a return to Bossley Park after his two year stint in the J League.

But it would appear that his wage demands were considered excessive and after talks broke down with Northern Spirit the player's interest switched to Perth.

"I do not want to talk about Matthew," added Labbozzetta.

"He is a nice player and I have a lot of respect for him so I do not want to talk about individuals.

"And if a player gets an offer from another club which is thirty or forty thousand dollars higher than who could blame them for taking it?"

"But are they worth it?"

"Marconi could pay \$4,000 a week for any

player, of course we could, but who is worth that sort of money?"

"There are clubs in Europe going broke because they pay too much.

"And will the clubs who pay out the big

wages in Australia still be there in a few years time - remember Marconi has been here for over 40 years.

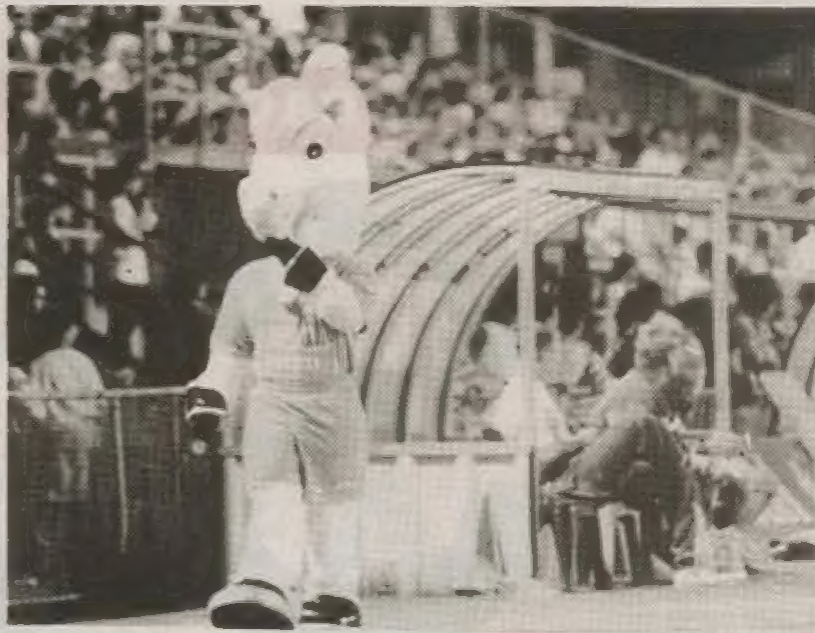
"We are still the number one club in Australia.

"But every dollar we

pay has to be justified.

"We pay our players what they worth but players have to give something back.

"There has to be some kind of sanity coming back into the game."



Frank Labbozzetta: Marconi have taken a stand against inflated player payments

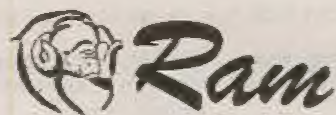
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Off shore betting boom nets soccer

By Paul Majendie

ON-LINE gamblers are surfing the Internet to bet on everything from Italian football to British horse racing with an off-shore bookmaker who says he plans to float on the London stock market.

From Australia to Zimbabwe, punters are taking to the information super highway in their thousands with a company on the British off-shore island of Alderney.

After 14 years as a British bookmaker, Mark Blandford sold his six mainland shops, moved to the Channel island off France and now employs 25 people in a fast-expanding business.

"Within three months, we have picked up customers from 48 countries around the world - Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, all over the place," he told *Inside Soccer* in an interview.

Its sights are visited up to 25,000 times a day.

"British customers make up the majority," he said.

"The next group would be the Scandinavians and

the Chinese.

"Our main sports are soccer followed by rugby, golf, tennis and cricket.

"We are about to launch an American sports division."

Blandford faced tough questioning from the off-shore island authorities before they would grant him a licence.

They were eager to ensure there was no danger of money-laundering or any criminal involvement.

"We had to be prepared to be highly regulated as they are very sensitive about the issue. They feel the Channel Islands have a high reputation in off-shore banking and finance and they were keen the licences would not do anything to detract from that," he said.

"We have been in touch with local authorities who deal with money laundering. Key staff have been trained to know what to look out for.

"Thus far, we have had no problems. Our market is aimed at small, medium-sized customers. The big punters would

stick out like a sore thumb."

Blandford believes he offers tasty net profits for punters surfing for value - they pay no betting tax and his overheads are low enough for him to be competitive.

Feedback is positive.

"It is the first time I have ever been involved in bookmaking where the customer thanks you for the service - because it is tax-free," he said.

The grateful range from British horse racing fans who saved nine percent on their winnings and football fans on the island of Cyprus who would locally have to pay up to 25 percent in betting tax, he said.

The business has expanded way beyond expectations.

"We are budgeted to do Stg12 million (\$A31.3 million) in the first year. The indications are we are going to exceed that comfortably. The second year target is Stg45 million (\$A117 million) and for three years it is Stg82 million (\$A214 million)," he said.

"We are going to float on the Ofex stock exchange. We hope that will be on February 18 if all the documentation is in place," he added.

Competition is global and varied. He promotes his service as offering a truly international range of sports.

"There are several that operate out of different Caribbean locations but they tend to operate mainly American sports. There are two in Austria and Germany that offer football," he said.

The way the Internet has shrunk the world into a truly global village never ceases to amaze Blandford: "On Saturday, we took a bet from a Japanese customer on Milan winning their soccer match."

But he still remains superstitious: "We deal in 13 different currencies. But we are now adding the Euro to get past that unlucky number...."

KEWELL CHASE CONFIRMED

FOLLOWING recent stories in *Inside Soccer* it has been confirmed that Australian soccer star Harry Kewell is reportedly one of the targets of an Italian search for talent among the younger players at his Premiership club Leeds.

The English newspaper Daily Mail said Italian club Juventus sent two of its most senior scouts to inspect Leeds' line-up at last Saturday's fourth round FA Cup match against Portsmouth.

The Turin club plans a major overhaul at the end of the season and has its eye on a quartet of Leeds stars including Kewell who has played a key midfield role in the club's push for a top three finish in the Premiership this year.

Falcons pledge to fight on and defy quit rumours

By Bruce Campbell

GIPPSLAND Falcons are not ready to throw in the towel yet, not according to club general manager Mark Brady anyway.

Always the target of rumours concerning their imminent departure from the league the Morwell club has nevertheless defied the prophets of doom and has even made an appearance in a Top Six series during its seven year existence in Australia's top league.

With yet another crisis meeting held amongst the club's supporters fuel has been added to the latest batch of rumours.

This time, however, the stories might be on the mark – but not according to one who shares that name, Mark Brady.

"We hold these meetings semi-regularly," Brady said of what was labelled by others as a crisis meeting.

"It is a means of keeping the members informed about the club.

"We've got 700 members and it is good to let

them know what is going on and get their input also.

Stories of sponsor's pulling out are also sweeping the club, something which officials hotly deny.

A change of name a couple of seasons back did little to harness what Falcons officials hoped was a bigger target market.

Morwell is a smallish country town with a population of just 25,000 – seemingly too small to maintain a cashed-up team in the forefront of Australian soccer.

But the Falcons have had more than their share of off-field dramas in recent seasons also and a regular procession of club management has come and gone.

Rated as 66/1 long shots at the beginning of the season rookie coach Stuart Munro surprised a lot of people within the game as his side patched together a reasonable showing of results.

In the end, however, a

lack of playing resources has seen the inevitable happen.

But the latest loss of Archie Thompson to Carlton has stung the club badly – not the least the way in which the affair was handled.

"Thompson was under contract until the end of the side," a club source told *Inside Soccer*.

"Carlton offered \$20,000 for him – with the obvious inference that he would go free at the end of the season anyway.

"But I believe the club should have made him stick to his contract and then let it go to a tribunal – he is worth \$50,000.

"So it is a case of us getting duded by the city clubs again.

"A similar situation happened with Joe Tricarico in pre-season.

"He had been training with the Falcons and when he looked like being part of Munro's plans he packed his bags for Carlton."

Ironically, Thompson

was in line to make his Carlton last weekend against Gippsland.

With the revelation that ten of Australia's Ericsson Cup clubs are in financial trouble the plight of the Falcons does not come as any great surprise.

At the end of last season their debts were reported to be in the region of \$2million and it has seemed a question of when, rather than if, since then.

Despite assurances from Gippsland that they intend to fight on it could well be that they are playing out the last chapter of a long running war against the inevitable.

Soccer Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting later this month but before then it is believed that SA officials will ask clubs to be a little more realistic about their futures.

It is unlikely that the Falcons will be axed by SA, but instead they could well be asked to go voluntarily.

UEFA speaks out on Blatter and two referees plan

By Mark Gleeson

UEFA fired another broadside in the direction of FIFA president Sepp Blatter last week, denouncing his plans to hold the World Cup every two years.

After formally rejecting the proposal on Tuesday at their executive committee meeting in Cape Town, UEFA said that it was unfortunate that Blatter had first revealed details of his proposals in the media.

"The way the subject was introduced was not fortunate. It put members of the FIFA executive committee in an embarrassing situation," said UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner.

On Tuesday the UEFA committee, meeting in South Africa ahead of the Meridian Cup youth tournament, agreed unanimously that the

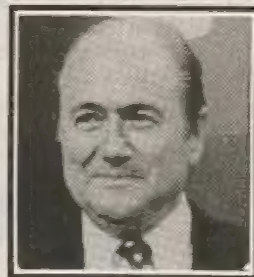
proposal "had no positive elements for European football nor football in general nor the World Cup".

"It is obvious that it would serve only to devalue the World Cup," Aigner said.

And in other news UEFA has said it would start experimenting with two referees controlling matches if the International Board, soccer's law-making body, approves the idea at its annual meeting this month.

In a statement, UEFA said that if the Board give the go-ahead at its meeting in Cardiff on February 20, trials could start in Europe almost immediately.

"Without going into technical details, the move is in accordance with UEFA's philosophy of trying to optimise the



Sepp Blatter

use of human resources before even considering the introduction of technology," UEFA said.

Referees have come under increasing pressure in the last few seasons.

Conflicting official messages from FIFA throughout last summer's World Cup finals contributed to erratic officiating which led to a record number of both red and yellow cards.

Although experiments have been held with two referees before, official trials were staged in England as long ago as 1935, the idea has never taken root.

Murdoch's talking Italian

By Stefan Reutz

Media magnate Rupert Murdoch was ready to make a sweeping offer to buy rights to televise Italian soccer games, the head of his News Corp. Europe said.

Letizia Moratti said an offer to the Italian soccer league will be presented by February.

News Corp. wants to break into the Italian pay TV market by broadcasting soccer games

on Telecom Italia's new pay TV unit, Stream.

Murdoch is close to buying 80 percent of Stream.

He was reportedly ready to pay 4.2 trillion lire (\$A4.13 billion) for exclusive rights to first division and second division soccer games for the next six seasons.

The Italian government has proposed limiting any single pay TV company to 60 percent of the matches, but

Moratti said the negotiations were continuing despite the proposal.

The fledgling Stream doesn't have any soccer rights at present.

Italy's other pay TV company Telepiu, which is controlled by France's Canal Plus, reportedly already has deals with the Inter, Juventus, Milan, Bologna, Cagliari, Empoli and Naples clubs for broadcast rights through 2005.

FIFA BRIBES

FIFA is to issue guidelines to countries bidding for the 2006 soccer World Cup to ensure no unreasonable inducements are made to its 24-strong executive committee which will decide the destiny of the tournament.

The move comes in the wake of the bribery scandal that has brought shame to the Olympic movement.

Keith Cooper, spokesman for world soccer's governing body, said correspondence would be sent next week to all eight World Cup 2006

candidates, setting out recommendations for the final year of campaigning before the vote in March 2000.

The guidelines were drawn up last year after complaints about the excessive amount of hospitality offered by some countries bidding for the 2002 World Cup.

"The decision was taken in May but as it has turned out the distribution of these guidelines has proved very timely," Cooper said.

He said failure to accept the recommendations could result in candidates being barred from the bidding campaign.

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

THE TITLE of this column really says it all; it's only an opinion.

But why do soccer writers have to shove theirs down the public's throat all the time?

Has anyone ever bothered to ask the fans what they think about the continual calling from some newspapers for the reduction in size of the league?

Has anyone ever bothered to ask the players?

I'm not saying for one minute that the reasons put forward aren't sound, but, really, when did logic ever enter a sportsfield?

But let us suppose just for one instant that all the reasons for reducing the league are brilliant, let us just suppose

What would YOUR reaction be if it was your team that wasn't there any longer?

Have all the fans of Heidelberg, APIA, St George, Sydney City (well, maybe I've lost that one) and Preston flocked to other NSL clubs - or are they just lost to the game?

And the businesses which poured millions of dollars into the game through those clubs, and others like them, over the last twenty one years Are they queuing up to sponsor other teams?

I don't think so.

And if you just happen to be a soccer player, are you liable to get picked up by another team if you happen to be playing in Newcastle, Brisbane, Canberra or Wollongong?

How many talented young kids continue to come through those ranks even if their sides have mixed success on the actual playing arena?

There is another group who misses out when an NSL side gets the boot, and once again no-one will ever ask them; the kids.

If you have lived in the vacuum created when an NSL side gets the heave-ho, as I did in Canberra, you will know exactly what I mean.

It hurts to hear your own kids talk about the likes of Mal Meninga and Ricky Stuart who continually toured the schools of Canberra spreading the gospel of Rugby League.

Canberra had Ned Zelic who had more talent in his fingertip (although having played in a celeb game against Mal, he is one talented guy) than the other two but would rarely rate just because there wasn't the flagship presence of an NSL side.

Again, I've been really lucky enough to work in the game and see the effect that Norman Kelly had when he toured the Canberra schools on behalf of the Cosmos - and this was a side which could hardly win a game.

We don't need less - we need MORE.

Alright, I take the point about the quality of players but would that really improve if you reduced the league to ten?

Say you dropped one team from Sydney and Melbourne and four regionals, would the players from those teams really go to the other clubs?

I don't think so.

We've already talked about the missing sponsorship dollars and the big loss to the kids.

Ask Ned Zelic if you don't believe me.

I wonder if any of the writers who continually harp on about league reduction have ever taken the time to get the opinion of someone who is surely one of the finest post-war talents produced - and produced in a town laid waste by the ravages of league reduction.

Instead, the league should come out with a five year plan based on how the

NSL will look in Year 2005.

If it is going to be a second division, great.

But how will it work?

Let us know.

Then tell us how the promotion and relegation issue will be settled.

Then tell us about the league the following year and the following year, and so on.

But what about the standard of play, what about the talent drain?

Well, that is solvable as well.

You will never stop the really brilliant players seeking the highest platform but surely you can stop the average ones playing in some second or third rate Asian competition or the Belgian second division.

To do that all that has to be introduced is a minimum liveable wage.

I suspect that that single factor will do more good for the game than anything in the last 21 years.

The majority of players would pause before moving overseas if they thought that they could get a liveable full-time income in Australia.

At present only a handful of our stars fit into that category, the others are living on sweetie money.

The current visa player's minimum wage is \$600 per week, as it has been for several years.

That would be a good starting point.

I personally don't have a lot of sympathy for clubs who would find that too much although I do think that it would need to be brought in gradually.

Ask most club officials what size of an average crowd they are targeting and invariably the answer would be 6-8,000.

So on that basis a wage of \$600 isn't out of the question.

Surely then the clubs would stop and think and bring back some of our players currently exiled in Asia or the Neanderthal leagues of Europe.

Phase in a minimum wage of realistic proportions and the effect would be exciting.

Year 1 could see an across the board minimum wage of \$300 per player and that could be progressively increased.

The earth shattering news that the majority of our players don't get that amount will stun a lot of people, but it is true.

Some years ago the ASF started work on introducing a minimum wage for contract players - of \$100.

That hasn't happened yet but when, and it is surely a when rather than an if, I am sure that some of our players would re-consider their careers in Australia and then our clubs would re-evaluate their own playing strengths.

The standard would lift overnight, the fans would start to come back, the clubs would get stronger, the clubs would bring in better players, the fans would come back

Surely, that is a far brighter future than kicking out half of the league?

Of course, there would be casualties.

Some clubs would fold immediately or certainly within a few seasons, buckled by the financial strain.

But that is the way of things in the entertainment business.

Maybe that is how soccer needs to start looking at itself.

AND more about the Auckland Kings. Some years ago *Inside Soccer* used to feature the New Zealand NSL results, then run in summer also.

The reason we do not anymore is a simple one - the league has been scrapped until next summer

The Great Schwarzer

I LIVE in Cooma in southern NSW, but am formerly from Darwin and before that for the first 30 years of my life in Adelaide and various other places around that state.

I have only recently discovered *Inside Soccer* and am very impressed with what you are doing and trying to do, so keep up the good work.

I liked the great article on Mark Schwarzer.

I have got a lot of respect for the guy and hope he makes it back into the Socceroo fold.

He really does appear to be a bit of an outcast even with the daily newspapers here in Australia.

They can't see past the other two Marks, Viduka and Bosnich, and the young genius Harry Kewell.

On a different note did you read the article on the problems with Aussie Soccer by Damien Lovelock in the *Inside Sport* magazine January issue?

I agree whole heartedly with the crux of his article.

That something has to be done to lift Soccer Australia's flagging image.

After the demise of David Hill and Terry Venables and our disappointing World Cup qualifying performance, it's become a bit

of a laughing stock among the football codes here in Australia, undeservedly.

Even though I don't expect you to do IMG's job for them, any coverage of great Australian talent is always welcome.

IMG are set to concentrate on the Socceroos, perhaps your publication and any others around like yours, could strive to be at the forefront of a public relations move to raise the image of the whole Aussie soccer scene.

Your WRITE

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You must include a day time telephone number for verification purposes, if necessary, and letters should be kept under 400 words.

All correspondence must include your name and address - although we will print letters under nom-de-plumes.

Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

On reading your Australia Day issue, what better way than with more articles on the local stars.

Your article on Wollongong's Ray Younis in the January 26 issue of your paper was fantastic.

I look forward to reading many more along the same lines, and hope this is a regular column in your paper.

Danny Stapleton
Cooma NSW

Purists & Eagles

FOR many years some purists have waged a specific campaign to have our great game, commonly known as soccer in Australia, referred to as football as it is in most other countries.

I am happy to inform you that at the insistence of the IOC the Olympic Football Tournament will be referred to as the 'Football' tournament in all official publications and releases, full stop.

Even the Melburnians have acceded to the IOC edict.

This is the first time even that the Aussie Rules establishment have had to acknowledge another code being called 'football' in their heartland.

If this doesn't underline the power of the IOC and the world game then nothing does.

On another matter many Sydney people fear that the proposed Parramatta NSL club will be nothing more than a repackaged Melita Eagles.

Interestingly the two most successful recent additions to the NSL, Glory and Spirit, are pure soccer clubs that have no

connection with other football codes or failed soccer clubs from the past.

The third, and least successful by far at the turnstiles, Carlton is now in the process of severing their connection with the Carlton AFL club.

The Collingwood warriors nee Heidelberg was a classic example of the folly in recycling old discredited soccer clubs.

I am not lobbying against the proposed Parramatta NSL club but if it is to succeed it must be able to sell itself as the new exciting face of soccer in the west.

Carrying a lot of old useless excess baggage is not the right way to start a new NSL club whose success is of vital importance for the NSL and the game in Sydney.

R Melor
Bondi NSW

O/S Aussies

WHAT is the chance of you doing a profile and an interview with that much misunderstood defender Kevin Muscat now at Wolverhampton Wanderers?

He is probably the most disliked Aussie in English Soccer at the moment after his fierce tackles on Matt Holmes and Welshman Craig Bellamy over the past twelve months, which may have ended both their careers.

The former Australian under-23 Olympic team captain, and senior Socceroo, is definitely a great Australian soccer personality and should get the chance to explain his rather exuberant behaviour.

Another Socceroo who

copped media coverage he would rather forget, Mark Viduka, is getting a bit of good PR again.

Perhaps the same could be done for Kevin as well, it certainly wouldn't go amiss.

Again thanks for the soccer coverage you give now and I look forward to seeing a bit more on soccer in South Australia, in future issues, not just NSW and Victoria.

Danny Stapleton
Cooma NSW
(You keep the ideas coming and we'll do our best to get our staff writers to cover them. - Ed).

Bobby Catlin

As a new reader of your great mag I enjoy every article I read and noticed a few things I thought you might be interested in.

Bob Catlin and I went to school together from kindy to H.S.C. and I recall him giving up soccer for one year to play rugby league (at about 14 or 15 years old).

So he did actually play prop in there somewhere - not always between the sticks.

He was very good at RL but with one Mr R Alagich as our head P.E. teacher he soon saw the light, again!

I also just happened to speak to the fireworks guys after the Spirit/Newcastle match and found out that the end of match fireworks cost about \$1500 and that they only let off about one third of what they had ready (no goals).

I wonder what it cost them for the Marconi match!!!

Spirit Fan

Goalkeeping Glut

IS THERE any chance you could do an article on the glut of great Australian goalkeepers starring in English Soccer. Not just Bosnich and Schwarzer, but also the others holding up their ends as well as their heads proudly as Aussies aiming for a shot in what is still the best league in the world.

Players such as Jason Kearton (Crewe), Frank Talia (Swindon), Andy Petterson (Portsmouth) or maybe even Simon Miotto at Hartlepool down in Div.3.

Not household names yet, here or in the UK, not even Socceroo stars, but just a few of the Australians in the lower English divisions hoping to get a shot in the big league, playing in the hardest position on the field.

On behalf of all proud Australian's first and Aussie soccer fans second, I wish the above mentioned handful of young stars, all the best in their quest.

Not to forget or down-play the hundreds of other young Aussies overseas, also trying their luck. I know their mass exodus every year weakens our local league and it's been well documented that we are being stripped of our young talent by the European powers.

Some young teenagers risking being lost to this country for our future World Cup and Olympic campaigns. But you still have to feel proud of them all the same.

What is happening to the transfer money our local clubs are receiving for them? Isn't it being put back into local player development. Or are they going so young not enabling our clubs to get a reasonable fee for them.

Is it the same as is happening with the English teenagers themselves? Players such as Lee Hendrie and Gareth Barry at Aston Villa for example.

Taken from the poorer clubs in the lower divisions for pitiful amounts, which the English FA. is finally taking moves to rectify. Are we heading the same way with the arrangements between South Melbourne and Olympiakos in Greece and between Carlton and Panathinaikos also in Greece, to mention just two.

Will these become one way streets, with the Greek sides getting the cream of our young talent and we getting the old, injured and infirm from them, or am I just paranoid. If I'm not, Soccer Australia won't be in the same position as the English FA, they won't be able to do a thing about it.

Danny Stapleton
Cooma NSW

(The player drain is a real problem. But everynow and again there is a move which is great for everyone concerned. Andy Vlahos' recent transfer from Carlton ranks in that category. In my opinion Vlahos is just an average player yet he has snared a contract which is worth about \$250,000 a year to him personally and about the same for his club in a transfer fee. The keepers, good idea - watch future issues. - Ed).

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SYDNEY Ericsson Cup clubs rule, OK?

After the busiest week in the 98/99 season, three games for most clubs in the period of seven days or less, the damage has taken its toll.

At Round 18, three Sydney sides, United, Spirit and Olympic, occupy a place in the Top Six.

The Vics are represented by leaders South Melbourne and ever-improving Carlton.

The single South Australian entrant is perennial title contender Adelaide City.

On the slide are Glory and Marconi and the Sharks are now an endangered species.

THE SYDNEY Challenge Cup looks likely to hold interest for some time.

Results over the weekend stopped Spirit claiming victory.

Sydney Olympic officials believe success over the Pumas on February 14 will deliver them the

WHEATLEY'S WORLD



crystal.

Unfortunately, the cash incentive has been stripped from the concept.

OLYMPIC'S lease at Belmore expires at the end of this season.

In trying to ascertain the right mix for supporters the club is looking at all options including Wentworth Park.

The ground is in the heart of the CBD with inner city light rail and offers standard public transport connections.

The surface is in excellent shape and general facilities are reasonable although heavily under-utilised.

If Olympic do change venue let's take a look at where they've been in the past.

From my memory there's been

Pratten Park, the Sydney Football Stadium, Leichhardt Oval, St George Stadium and Belmore.

If I've missed some drop the editor a note.

WHILE on the issue of grounds Northern Spirit have received a strong proposal from Manly Leagues Club and the council for the use of Brookvale Oval.

A counter offer exists from North Sydney Council with assistance for the Spirit being offered in the form of new lights, a subsidy on the removal and replacement of the cricket pitch and some attractive options in the top end catering and facilities department of the Mollie Dive Stand.

MORE soccer players than AFL players in primary schools in Vic-

toria; I'd like to see that!!

The Victorian Soccer Federation proudly boasts this revealing statistic and directed *Wheatley's World* to its PASS Programme.

PASS (Planning a Soccer Session) is a newly written course especially designed for teachers to give them the necessary skills and more importantly the knowledge and information to run a school soccer programme.

The three hour programme has a theory component but is mainly a hands on drill after drill practical session with a handy resource manual given to each participant.

At the conclusion of this programme, teachers may be interested in attending the VSF's 14 hour Level 1 Coaching Course.

DESPITE transfer trials and tribulations at Carlton over the on-again off-again movement of talented Olyroo Archie Thompson, the Blues marketing team are already one step ahead of the Falcons.

One of the Carlton membership packages for the 98/99 season is the country-interstate membership available to fans outside 100km of Melbourne.

Could be a few takers from the Gippsland area when Thompson does finally move to the city.

One enticing element of the 'Country' membership is priority access to purchase Ericsson Cup finals tickets.

Something one prominent Carlton official described as one item Gippsland wouldn't need to offer their fans (Ed - ouch!).

AND if you would like to go into the draw for a FREE CARLTON INTERSTATE MEMBERS PASS just send in your details to the Editor at *Inside Soccer*.

English Premier League talent scout down under, Update #7.

Sources in the Sunshine State revealed this week that Blackburn Rovers can be added to the list of 'interested' clubs investigating our government funded academies and youth nurseries to Ericsson Cup clubs.

Another hole to plug for our national body.

THE ABC's crystal ball for picking the Sunday Match of the Round is right on target.

In-form Sydney United face Adelaide City as second meets third in what should be another cracking encounter.

See you 5pm on Sunday night!

COSMOS coach Tom Sermanni's baptism of fire continues.

With opposite seasons in mind Sermanni can probably relate to the comments of former Liverpool manager, Roy Evans.

"I always enjoy the summer - you can't lose any matches."

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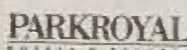
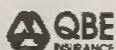
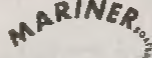
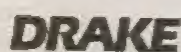
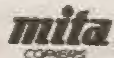
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Saturday 6 February
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Saturday 13 February
9am-2pm Dunbar Reserve
Wednesday 10 February
7-9pm Careel Bay Clubhouse
CONTACT:
Registrar Vicky Cooper 9918 2358
Secretary Roland Luke 9918 3616

BEACON HILL S.C.

CONTACT:
Registrar John Callaghan 9975 6936
Secretary Tony Davies 9451 0785

BTH RAIDERS S.C.

Sunday 7 February
9am-3pm Glenrose Shopping Centre
9am-3pm Forest Way Shopping Centre
9am-2pm Terry Hills Shops
CONTACTS:
Registrar Margaret Kane 9451 5188
Secretary Michelle Beck 9451 9140

BROOKVALE S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Wesley Ryder 9905 2391
Secretary Sam Mesite 9905 2501

C.C. STRIKERS S.C.

Saturday 30 January
9am-2pm Collaroy Plateau Youth Club
Wednesday 3 February
5.30pm-7pm Collaroy Plateau Youth Club
CONTACTS:
Registrar John Ward 9981 2859
Secretary Lea Cohen 9971 1369

CURL CURL S.C.

Tuesday 2 & Thursday 4 February
7pm-9pm Abbott Road Community Hall
CONTACTS:
Registrar Mike Webb 9905 3504
Secretary Brian Dunphy 9939 8061

DEE WHY S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Mark Pearman 9944 0475
Secretary 9971 0635

FOREST KILLARNEY S.C.

Saturday 30 January
8.30am-2pm Forestville Shopping Centre
Saturday 6 February
8.30am-2pm Forestville Shopping Centre
Friday 12 February
6pm-9pm Forest Killarney Soccer Club
CONTACTS:
Registrar Cathy Deblaere 9982 6943
Secretary Helen Jones 9981 7803

HARBORD DIGGERS S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Morris Glasson 9905 2192

MANLY ALLAMBIE S.C.

Saturday 30 January
10am-4pm Millers Reserve Canteen
Saturday 6 February
10am-4pm Millers Reserve Canteen
CONTACTS:
Registrar Scott Campbell 9938 1630
Secretary Bill Browne 9905 1333

MANLY VALE S.C.

Saturday 6 February
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Sloane Cr
Sunday 7 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
Saturday 13 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
Sunday 14 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
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Secretary Tom Miles 9949 1730

MOSMAN S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar John Garrett 9908 4262
Secretary David Fletcher 9948 7248

NARRABEEN YOUTH CLUB

CONTACTS
Registrar Walter Opdam 9913 3017
Secretary Jacqui Ralph 9913 9361

PITTWATER RSL S.C.

Saturday 6 February
9am-5pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
Wednesday 10 February
6pm-9pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
Wednesday 17 February
6pm-9pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
CONTACTS:
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Secretary Sharon Stokes 9918 0716

SEAFORTH S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Lynne Radford 9949 6723
Secretary Wendy West 9948 7106

SEASIDERS S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Melissa Firth 9949 7758
Secretary David Broughton 9981 1825

ST AUGUSTINE S.C.

CONTACTS
Secretary David Anglicas 9971 5366

WAKEHURST S.C.

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CONTACTS:
Registrar Ed Neill 9975 7442
Secretary Joseph Sorbara 9452 4868

Manly Warringah Soccer Association
Secretary Syd Russell 9979 6065

"It wasn't my fault, well maybe .."

By Trevor Marshallsea

Socceroo striker Mark Viduka made a reappearance at Celtic early last week in a move which had been expected to assure the Scottish champions and their fans he was ready to do what he was first acquired to do.

But after a press conference which seemed to leave many questions unanswered about his messy transfer from Croatia Zagreb, it was clear the best reassurance from the taciturn Viduka would have to come on the pitch.

Viduka's return to Parkhead followed his decision to take a month in Australia to deal with stress only days after joining the club in early December, and after the past two weeks of highly charged negotiations which appeared to threaten his future at the club.

The final details of his transfer are still to be agreed, specifically the terms under which he will receive his Stg1.5 million (\$A3.95 million) share of the Stg3 million (\$A7.9 million) transfer fee.

With Viduka having already trained with his new team-mates, however, Celtic clearly believes the contract will be quickly settled.

But that Celtic was now disinclined to bend over backwards for the 23-year-old was clear by the staging of his meeting with some 40 local media representatives in Glasgow.

Club public relations officer Peter McLean sat by his side but said nothing throughout.

And there was no appearance by Celtic's shrewd managing director Fergus McCann, who at the height of talks last week demanded the

striker's agent Bernie Mandic be taken off the case.

Viduka said he had been well received by his team-mates, who watched incredulously less than two weeks ago when Mandic tried to defy club orders by putting him on Celtic's flight to Spain for its mid-winter break.

Local journalists walked away today surprised, however, at the lack of any apology from Viduka to Celtic fans or the club over his lengthy absence, and of a guarantee that he can adequately deal with pressure.

Asked who was to blame for the saga, a nervous and uneasy-looking Viduka at first said "nobody was really to blame", but later added: "I might be to blame, but maybe Celtic also."

Asked if he had a problem dealing with pres-



Mark Viduka and girlfriend: back in Glasgow with everyone waiting to see how the fans react

sure, he said only that "pressure comes with the job".

He added he'd consulted Melbourne sports psychologist Patrick Farrell, who has also worked with basketball star Luc Longley, and had received support from fellow Socceroo Mark Bosnich in a telephone conversation.

And asked what guarantee the club and its fans had that he would not desert them again, he said: "I've come back here - isn't that a good

enough guarantee?"

Viduka, the most expensive Australian player yet, did say, however, that he had apologised to his team-mates.

"The other players were very friendly and understanding," he said in a later telephone interview.

"Hopefully I will get a good reception from the fans too. Hopefully they will be happy to see me out there," said

Viduka, admitting to being "very relieved" the transfer was all but settled.

"Everything that's happened has made me more determined to get off to a good start with the club."

Viduka, who has signed for four years with Celtic, refrained from commenting on what had caused negotiations to bog down, saying he had "not really been involved" and had left the talking up to Mandic and his employers, the International Management Group.

Viduka said he would not consider dumping Mandic, and said he was

"feeling much better" for his month in Australia after the stress he'd developed under pressure from Croatia Zagreb fans.

"In Melbourne I was with family and people who love me and care for me that was enough," said Viduka, who has been joined in Glasgow by Croatian girlfriend Ivana Husidic.

Viduka, who said he was "below 100 per cent fitness", is expected to have to wait at least another week for his first match.

They're Aussie kids

By Paul Millar

SOCCER Australia (SA) will head off a bid by Leeds United to pressure a promising teenager into turning his back on his country by selecting him for a youth international against Fiji.

In the latest club-before-country row, the English premier league club has told 16-year-old Shane Cansdell-Sherriff it would prefer him to play for England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales if he was to make the grade at Elland Road.

The teenager would then be ineligible to play for Australia.

Leeds is already offside with SA for its reluctance to release Socceroo Harry Kewell for internationals.

In addition, the club showed its contempt for Australia when club youth academy director of coaching Alan Hill said recently it was pointless signing Australians if they wanted to play for their country.

Leeds reinforced that attitude when dealing with Cansdell-Sherriff.

The New South Wales Institute of Sport star, who always wanted to play for Australia, is now having second thoughts.

But Australian under-17 coach Les Scheinflug



Les Scheinflug: angry

aims to stifle any attempt by Leeds to pressure the teenager into playing for any other country.

"I can assure you that he will play for Australia against Fiji in the under-17 World Cup qualifier

in May before he goes to England," an angry Scheinflug said.

Cansdell-Sherriff has

secured a four-year scholarship with the Elland Road club after scouts saw him while he was touring England with his school side.

He said last week he was disappointed with the attitude of Leeds, but understood why they made the suggestion.

"But I don't think they should be pressuring players of my age like that, they said 'we'd prefer you played for England or Ireland or Scotland if you are to play for us'," Cansdell-Sherriff said.

He also said he would have to consider his options if selected for national duty.

SA president Basil Scarsella said it was morally wrong for Leeds to suggest footballers play for any country

which was convenient for the Yorkshire side.

In addition, he was concerned Australia lost out financially when youngsters such as Cansdell-Sherriff were snapped up for nothing, after thousands of dollars had been spent on them at sports institutes here.

"They are having the same sort of problems in the English FA with Premier League clubs taking promising youngsters from the amateurs at 14 or 15 and they are not receiving compensation," Scarsella said.

In Britain, the youngsters were signing long-term contracts to ensure the amateur clubs were adequately compensated.

CLUB AUSSIE

ROBBIE MIDDLEBY has been released by KFC Uerdingen although the former Wollongong player is still training with the German club.

SCOTT GUYETT is an Aussie with English Conference League club Southport. The Brisbaner scored his side's winning goal against Leigh in the FA Trophy.

VINCE MATASSA is playing Non-League football with Basingstoke Town while 26 year-old former Knights player MARK SILIC is playing in Germany with FC Guterloh.

And MIKE PANOPOULOS, who plays with Aris Saloniki, has had a promising trial with Dundee United.

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STARS OF THE FUTURE Mark Hagger

Marconi Fairfield

By FRED LEGGET

Hagger The Hot Shot! Remember the name, Mark Hagger. The 19-year-old striker from Marconi is currently leading the goal scoring charts in the Northern Division of the National Youth League, and judging by the opinion of a few Ericsson Cup coaches, is set for a bright future.

It was Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey, then with Marconi who first spotted the flame haired youngster two years ago, when he was playing for Hills United in the New South Wales First Division.

Explained Sterrey: "It was during the Ericsson Cup close season and I was coaching Mt Pritchard in the first division of the State League.

"Our game had been called off due to the weather and I decided to make the trip out to watch Hills United play Hurstville Minotaurs as we were playing the Hurstville side in the next round.

"The game was on at Fred Caterson Reserve and I remember that it was a very slippery, muddy surface that day.

"One player stood out, this tall thin red haired youngster, who seemed to cover every blade of grass during the game.

"He had a bit of pace about him, was dominant in the air, and al-

though he was playing against older and stronger opponents he still put himself about.

"I was impressed, made a few inquiries and managed to convince him to come down to Marconi for the start of the next season."

His coach at Hills United was current Sydney United assistant Lawrie McKinna, and he rates the young striker highly.

Said McKinna: "Mark first came along to Hills United as his older brother Adam was playing there, and right from day one you could see that he was a player of outstanding ability.

"I started him off in the under 18 side, but he was a class above everybody so I pushed him up to the under 21 team.

"Even there he stood out, so it wasn't long before he was playing with the first team and holding his own against former international players.

"He's very mobile, got a good style about him, but most importantly he is prepared to listen and learn.

"He's definitely Ericsson Cup material."

After a season at Hills United the then 17-year-old Hagger subsequently turned up for the pre season youth trials with an arm in plaster, but Sterrey's recommendation ensured that he was signed on.

Current Marconi youth team coach Eddie McPherson remembers the night Hagger first arrived at Marconi.

"I had heard a bit about him, but when he turned up with a broken arm, I thought, 'What am I going to do here?' as to how you judge a player's ability when they are constrained by a broken arm?

"Luckily, Lee Sterrey had already spotted the potential in Mark, and I guess you could say he was signed on the basis of his raw ability."

And that turned out to be an excellent decision by Marconi, as Hagger was to end up second top scorer in the Northern Division Youth League, playing for Marconi Colts in his first season with the Stallions.

This season he leads the way with 16 goals from 15 games, and McPherson is resigned to losing him to the first team squad, sooner rather than later.

Said the Marconi Youth Team coach: "Mark is a clinical finisher with both feet and is very good in the air.

"He has a knack of scoring goals, and can pop them in from thirty metres as well as put them away from inside the box.

"He's definitely got the ability to go on and play in the Ericsson Cup, and its only a matter of time before he is called up into

the first team squad.

"Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic was standing next to me at one game when Mark turned blind and blasted a 30 yarder into the net.

"Eddie just shook his head and said, 'that kid is ready to play first grade now.'"

At any other club Hagger may well have found himself pitched into the rough and tumble of Ericsson Cup football already, but with top notch strikers at Marconi such as Kris Trajanovski, Sean Babic and Francis Awaritefe, it is understandable if the boy from North Rocks may have to wait a little longer before he gets a crack at the big time.

Hagger is employed full time by Marconi under the soccer traineeship scheme, which sees the apprentice professional combine training with work in Marconi's Soccer Administration office, as well as completing a sports administration course.

Surprisingly, unlike some strikers, who turn out to have been scoring barrow loads of goals since they were playing in the under sixes, Mark first came to notice playing a little further back on the field.

Said Mark: "When I was first playing I used to be a right back before eventually settling in to a midfield position for a



few years.

"I was selected for the Granville representative side as a midfielder when I was about 12 years old, and one day due to an injury, I was asked to play up front in a striking role," he says.

"I guess that was when my time as a striker started."

Not surprisingly, Marconi coach Frank Farina

has also been keeping an eye on his youth league star, and admits that it may not be so far away when Mark finds himself pitched into the Ericsson cup fray.

"I've seen quite a bit of Mark, and he's certainly scoring a lot of goals in the youth league," adds Farina.

"He's got a good attitude, and before long

he'll get his opportunity.

"It is young kids like Mark who are the future of the club."

Hagger is currently in Italy with the Marconi youth team playing in the prestigious Viareggio youth tournament, but it seems only a matter of when, not if, he makes his Ericsson cup debut.

Thompson offer "a joke"

WANT-away Falcons star Archie Thompson is not going to Carlton — at least not now.

That is the latest after a week in which the speedy Olyroo hopeful seemed set to move to the ambitious Melbourne club.

Gippsland Falcons and Carlton have failed to come to an agreement after a turbulent week which could well sour relationships between the two clubs on a long-term basis.

"Carlton have already got four of our players in their starting line-up," hit back Falcons General Manager Mark Brady.

"We are quite prepared for our role of what seems to be supplying players for other clubs but expect to get a fair price for those transfers."

Brady was not in a conciliatory mood and pointed to the fact that Marcus Stergiopoulos,

Sean Douglas, Joe Tricarico and Con Anthonopoulos all played at some stage for the Latrobe Valley club.

"Somebody has spilled their guts to the media about the details of Thompson's transfer — and it wasn't us," added Brady.

"That isn't the way in which Gippsland does its business.

"But Lou Sticca (Carlton's General manager) clearly feels confident in his ability to win a better deal at a compensation tribunal."

It is believed that Carlton originally offered \$20,000 for Thompson whose one year contract expires at the end of the current season.

That offer was rejected out of hand by Gippsland and Carlton made a revised bid, believed to be of \$30,000.

"The Carlton offer was just a joke," said Brady

whose club have insisted that Thompson honour his contractual obligations.

Ironically the two clubs played each other next weekend with Thompson likely to be named in the Falcons line-up if selected by coach Munro.

Now, it seems, the skilful youngster will see the season out in Morwell before moving to Carlton on a compensation fee.

But that could be as much as \$50,000 if recent decisions are anything to go by.

Carlton obviously are prepared to do without their player until then although it would seem more likely that, with the money in the bank from the Vlahos transfer, that they will step in early to snare the talented forward.

The Falcons, for their part, are already on the lookout for a replacement to bolster their squad.

Spirit look to Poimer

By JOHN WHITE

SYDNEY new guys Northern Spirit have made an audacious bid to tempt Adelaide Shark Derek Poimer back to Sydney.

The highly rated striker enjoyed a stint at Belmore with Sydney Olympic before being tempted south to Adelaide by first-season Sharks coach Manfred Schaefer.

"Spirit has made a bid for Poimer," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"Obviously the club is concerned about it's inability to score goals.

"You would have to be honest and say that Clayton Zane has been a flop and Tony Perinich (out injured) will be lucky if he plays again this season.

"And with Graham Arnold playing as sweeper that leaves the



club short of strikers.

"Evidence of that fact is that in the last few games Robbie Slater has been playing a front role and he doesn't seem to be too happy there either."

In recent weeks Spirit

have been linked with first Matthew Bingley and then Paul Okon.

As was exclusively revealed in *Inside Soccer* last year Okon is considering a spell in Australia to help him regain peak

match fitness.

But it would seem that the wage demands of both players are beyond the north shore club.

And it would seem that finances will also rule out their bid to land Poimer.

A case of two keepers

TWO goalkeepers with different Sydney clubs both share common ground.

Both Peter Blazincic and Jim Kourtis transferred to Sydney clubs at the beginning of this season - and both are confined to youth league action after failing to grab a regular spot in their respective club's first team line-up.

For Blazincic the story is even more frustrating after turning down other NSL club offers to join Spirit.

Reputedly on an \$80,000 a season salary the experienced keeper who had spells at Adelaide Sharks, Sydney United and in China is being kept out of the side by the brilliance of rookie Paul Henderson.

At Olympic Kourtis, who signed from Gippsland Falcons and who is also on a big contract, is being overshadowed by the perennial George Bouhoutsos who has built up his own cult-like status amongst the side's regular followers.

"George has tried hard at this club," said an insider.

"He has been elsewhere but it is obvious his heart is with Olympic because

he always comes back here."

With Bouhoutsos in good form it might seem that Jimmy Kourtis, who is said to have cost the club a \$50,000 transfer fee at a recent compensation tribunal, is an expensive flop.

But Olympic coach Branko Culina clearly doesn't see it that way.

"A lot of people don't realise how hard it is to settle into a new club," said Culina.

"Jimmy has to make some big adjustments; he has had to learn how to get on with different people, new teammates and a new city.

"So it isn't quite that easy."

"And, of course, Olympic fans are also very demanding.

"Earlier on he had a couple of difficulties so we rested him for a bit.

"And with George playing so well Jim just has to wait his turn but his own form has picked up also, so that is good for the club."

Culina is obviously pleased to have two good keepers to choose from but over the Harbour Bridge in North Sydney Graham Arnold has three.

Not only does he have



Peter Blazincic: out of favour at Spirit

Blazincic and Henderson vying for the place between the sticks but Sydney United recruit John Perosh also.

At the start of the season it would have seemed that Perosh and Blazincic would have been fighting it out for the top spot with Henderson learning

the ropes.

Instead the youngster who was signed from Super League side Sutherland has made the spot his own.

That has led to Spirit attempting to offload the \$80,000 a year Blazincic, but so far with no success.

Di Sipio leading fightback in Morwell

By Paul Millar

Passionate Gippsland Falcons members have pledged to dip into their pockets to help the club at least see out the Ericsson Cup season.

Club president Fred Di Sipio said while disappointed at the turn-out at a special members meeting on Thursday night many of those who had attended showed they were prepared to help out.

"They showed at least they had their heart in the right place, people pledged from \$50 to \$5,000," Di Sipio said.

"But it's still not enough to make up the shortfall we would have at the end of the season, we're still working on that," he said.

The club, which has prided itself on managing its finances since its days in the Victorian provisional leagues, will be around \$150,000 short of its budget at the end of this season.

With Soccer Australia set to revamp the league again next year, with the introduction of the Auckland Kings, several current clubs are jittery

about being culled.

Di Sipio said only about 150 of the club's 700 members turned up for the meeting but many had agreed to help form fund-raising sub-committees.

The board meanwhile will pursue a more aggressive sponsorship drive in a bid to cut the club's debt.

"We feel more than confident that we will

play on next season and in future seasons," Di Sipio said.

Coach Stuart Munro is desperate to sign new players and has a former team-mate from Glasgow Rangers ready to move here.

But the board is unlikely to decide on whether it can afford him until at least the middle of next week.



Midfielder shines in big time

By Tony Moffitt

FOR Breakers midfielder, Mark Wilson, 1999 has been a landmark year.

This season signalled Mark's step-up into the full-time ranks of the senior team and with a permanent position in Lee Sterrey's side, Mark's game has come on leaps and bounds.

"I've been with the Breakers since the start," Mark told *Inside Soccer*.

"After years as a local Edgeworth junior, I joined the Youth Squad.

"Over the last couple of years I've been getting more time on the paddock with the senior team.

"Apart from a couple of games at the start of this year, I've been in the side every other game so far."

Mark credits a lot of his own success, and the success of the team, to coach Sterrey.

"He's certainly helped me, and I'm sure all of the other boys would say the same. It's the way he coaches," Mark said.

"He sets out a game plan which we work towards every

match, but within that plan, Lee gives us the freedom to play the game the way we want to.

"He's not barking instructions every few seconds from the sideline.

"Instead, he'll back you, and your ability.

"That gives everyone a lot more confidence."

Wilson rates the 1998/99 Newcastle Breakers a far tougher team than previous years.

He believes the often bitter experiences of previous seasons are now having a positive effect on the current side.

"We all know how it feels to lose," he said.

"It makes the games we win so much better.

"The attitude from the team is much more positive.

"We've been down in the depths ... now we want to spend a lot more time enjoying the highs."

Wilson's performances on the field this season have been consistent and valuable.

He enjoys the role Sterrey has given him, playing wide on the Breakers right flank, and believes the midfield role

suits his style of play.

"I like to attack," he explained.

"I like working the ball towards the goals and being involved in making chances.

"Naturally, when we're called on to defend, it's a matter of all hands on deck, but Lee has encouraged me to take the ball up when the time is right - and that's where I feel I am doing my best work."

This season is also significant for Mark Wilson because he comes off a two year contract with the club in August.

Leading up to any possible negotiations, Wilson's form couldn't be better.

"I'm a local boy and my family is here. I'd love to stay with the Breakers," Wilson admitted.

"If the opportunity arises, I'll certainly sign again."

Mark Wilson is a full-time footballer and when he's not training, he can often be found on hand at the Breakers offices, or helping with soccer promotions right around the Hunter region.

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On the Kop with Arnie's Barmy Army

Inside Soccer Editor Bruce Campbell takes a special look at North Sydney Oval and the Bob Stand crowd

OK, it isn't quite the Kop – or at least the Liverpool FC version of it anyway, but Northern Spirit's Bob Stand is as close as you will get to the Mecca of football supporters in Australia.

I left the comparative comforts of the press box at last week's Perth Glory match to mix with the best supporters in the land – and I came away raving.

The first thing that strikes you is just how early it actually starts to fill up, not the usual 10 minute dash before the game but at least an hour and a half before.

Leave it much later and you just won't get a spot.

Right up the middle of the stand runs the area where the group who call themselves Arnie's Barmy Army stand.

They don't sit, they stand.

And they sing, and they hurl abuse and they yell encouragement and they sing.

Are they the best supporters in the land?

Well, I suppose that

depends on whether you are Danny Milosevic or not.

The Glory keeper obviously didn't think so because he gave them the V sign as he ran up for a goal kick.

While the Barmy Army are unforgiving to rival team players they are passionate about their own.

A pre-game ritual at the stand tagged Spirit Point sees the fans chant a player's name.

Only when that player turns around and acknowledges the crowd do they let up – and then it is on to the next one.

So the visitors get the unnerving sound of ROBBIE... ROBBIE ROBBIE and so on until Slater waves, and then it continues through practically the entire list.

That Paul Henderson is a particular favourite had me beat.

Maybe it is because he is the kid made good, maybe he is just brilliant, maybe it is because he spends at least 45 minutes every match night



North Sydney Oval: the new home of Arnie's Barmy Army. oh, and the Northern Spirit as well

right in front of them.

Whatever, HENDO HEN-DO-OH gets repeated whenever there is a lull in the match.

Little wonder that the young keeper is having such a brilliant first season.

And the humour in the crowd is obvious.

From the chant of "You couldn't score in a brothel" into "Cheerio, cheerio, cheerio" as an opposition player (this time it was Glory's Ga-

reth Naven) gets his marching orders, the singing is incessant.

One particular crowd favourite is "We're gonna score in a minute" which seems to get an airing every time the Spirit are in the opposition half.

The Anglo-Celtic flavour of the crowd is obvious.

Less obvious, perhaps, is the mixture which makes this crowd up and I recognised many different ethnic backgrounds in

the stand as well as a complete gambit of ages and sexes.

Without the benefit of a market survey team you could go crazy trying to analyse why the fans have turned up in such huge numbers.

Even club chairman Remo Nogaretto is flabbergasted.

"I expected six thousand for games," he told me earlier, "but this is just fantastic.

"I hope it continues."

Is the Barmy Army there because of the crowds, are the crowds there because of the Barmy Army? - without a doubt the best cheer squad in the league.

Here we go, here we go and like the owners of the North Sydney Hotel, just across the road and purveyors of an excellent drop of the old amber, I don't really care – I just hope that the trend continues.

No dressing room idiots

ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic is known to Australia's soccer press corps as 'Smiley.'

Barely, if ever, does he approach press conferences with a radiant beam yet more often than not this master coach has more wisdom in his unsaid words than some of his colleagues in their well-worn trade of clichés and rhetoric.

Last week the Zebras boss was at it again.

Asked whether the weekend match against Canberra was a danger game the guru said: "I don't like to play bottom sides, that has always been a problem for Adelaide City.

"I'm probably the most guilty party in all of that.

"I don't know how to give my best when we play bottom sides," he said.

"But we don't have idiots in the dressing room, people understand three points against Canberra is only three points and we have people in front of us we want to catch and teams behind us that want to take a bite out of us."

Stuart Bell

Schaefer axed at Adelaide

By Bruce Campbell

ADELAIDE Sharks coach Manfred Schaefer dismissed speculation that he was facing the axe as just the norm in the cut-throat world of NSL football where results are of paramount importance.

"Yes, that's about all it is," he said on Friday while preparing for his side's weekend game against Carlton.

"Last week against South Melbourne we had 13 of the 14 player squad that we fielded against them in the first half of the season.

"But it was like a different team. However, Derek Poimer was definitely fouled in the penalty box and if the referee had given that then who knows what would have happened."

Schaefer is well aware that a touch of luck is needed in Ericsson Cup football.



But luck eluded the man rated as one of the greatest defenders Australia has ever produced.

The hard man of the football pitch has also established a reputation as a no-nonsense coach but Saturday morning's newspapers were full of stories about who was going to replace him with volatile Sharks owner Con Makris

stating his intention to bring in Wollongong's Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Makris said that if the Sharks didn't win at the weekend he would pull in former coach Adrian Santrac as a stop-gap.

But before the players could board the flight for Melbourne, Schaefer and the Sharks parted company with Santrac stepping into the breach.

Schaefer becomes the fourth coaching casualty

of the Ericsson Cup season following Canberra Cosmos pair Rale Rasic and Tony Brennan and Melbourne Knights Vid Horvat.

Makris is due to meet Theodorakopoulos this week.

Ironically the Wolves coach once played under Schaefer and was on the end of a thrashing when the two sides met in Adelaide earlier this season.

Stallion rookie impresses on debut

MARCONI'S latest first team player Victor Tomasevic got his chance in the club's challenge match against touring Korean side, Po-Hang.

Coach Frank Farina was impressed enough with the left footer's performance to include him on the team-sheet against Brisbane Strikers.

And even although the Stallions finished on the losing side Tomasevic did enough to suggest that the left sided wing back will be a

name to contend with.

In the continued absence of Mike Smith, Tomasevic may get an extended run in the team and certainly looked confident enough in his debut match.

"The game against Po-Hang was a bit of a rough and tumble affair," *Inside Soccer* was told, "but Tomasevic did well enough."

And in other Marconi news injured goalkeeper Ante Covic could be back in Farina's first team reckoning in the next week or so.

VPL BIG MATCH REPORT

New boys get slaughtered at Port

By David Arnold

NEWLY promoted Westvale were given the hiding of their lives from a merciless Port Melbourne Sharks at Anderson Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

Westvale had the better of the earlier stages with numerous dead balls in the Port half, but failed to capitalise on them, a theme repeated throughout the game.

Port completed a tough pre-season, giving NSL side Carlton a run for their money, only going down 2-1, a result which saw them taking on favourite and front runner status in the Victorian Premier League.

In Nick Tsaltas and Peter Kakos, Port have a frontline the envy of other clubs.

The speed and skill of Tsaltas aligned with the aerial prowess and striker's mind of Kakos should see Port well up there at season's end.

Kakos opened his season account in the 26th minute following excellent work from Tzirtis on the right.

Making space for himself, then going to the line, Tzirtis delivered an impeccable outswinging cross and Kakos, rising between Pender and McAleer, headed past Acetson.

Perhaps put out by this, Dennis Bergam, Westvale's powerfully built left flanker, launched into a shocking late tackle on Tommy Sonsini.

Referee Robert Ince, after shooing away angry Port players, produced the red card, for which there can be no com-

plaints.

Port's second goal was their best.

Tsaltas picked up a clearance from a corner and made a long pass to Heath making a run down the right wing.

Heath cut inside and played in Tzirtis going wide. Tzirtis then passed to Kakos at the corner of the box.

Kakos' shot/cross across the box found Tsaltas at the back post, who finished off the move he started.

Tzirtis, revelling in space on the flank, burnt past his marker again, crossing to Kakos, whose shot came off the underside of the bar where Acetson snatched it.

It was all Port in the second half as Westvale had no answer to the Kakos-Tzirtis-Tsaltas combination.

A lot of shots, a lot of chances without finishing them off.

Westvale relied heavily on the target man presence of Goutzioulis, but were let down by Armstrong and Sevin.

Acetson was sent off after bringing down Kakos outside the box.

Westvale substituted Timotheou and brought on Simon Myers, but not before Angelo Goutzioulis

offered to don the jersey.

Down to nine men, Armstrong was pulled back into midfield.

It was to no avail as Westvale's gallant defence, marshalled by the experienced Pender, finally gave way.

On 81 minutes, substitute Latinopoulos took down a half-clearance from Pender and promptly half-volleyed it over Acetson from twenty five metres for a spectacular goal.

Two minutes later Catmakamis split the offside trap with only Geri in attendance.

Geri bought him down in the box as the last man, but evaded the red card, Referee Ince's only blunder of the afternoon.

Catmakamis beat Myers from the spot to make it 4-0.

Goutzioulis scored Westvale's consolation goal, knocking in a long cross from Armstrong to round off a personally strong afternoon.

Port weren't finished yet and scored two more in added time.

Pappas showed Latinopoulos he could do it as well, putting in a thirty metre effort from an angle that dipped below the crossbar to make it 5-1, and Kakos got his second from Tsaltas' cross to send the crowd home happy.

Port Melbourne Sharks: Justin Cooper, Rodrigo Vargas, John Paul Knezevic, Dean Fak (Jimmy Latinopoulos '74), Tommy Sonsini, Adrian Heath, George Tzirtis (Chris Palatsides '85), Nick Palamaras (Kosta Catmakamis '46), John Pappas, Nick Tsaltas, Peter Kakos.

Westvale: Robert Acetson, Adrian Pender, Cameron Brown, Gerry McAleer (Robert Markinovic '84), Tim Timotheou (Simon Myers '84), Dennis Bergam, Phil Stubbins, Justin Geri, Sonny Sevin (George Karkaletsis '52), Lachlan Armstrong, Angelo Goutzioulis.

Knights desperate for Viduka cash

CASH-strapped NSL club Melbourne Knights wants to know why Scottish powerhouse Celtic is delaying payment of a transfer fee for its former star Mark Viduka.

The Socceroo transferred from Croatia Zagreb to the Scottish champion but the Knights are still waiting for their 20 per cent cut of the near \$8 million transfer.

The Croatian Football Federation has written to FIFA complaining that it's still waiting payment for the striker.

Viduka is back training with the Parkhead club after leaving within days of getting there, to return to his native Melbourne before Christmas.

Knights' president Steve Mandekic said his club was considering its options but would be writing to Celtic asking why the fee had not been paid.

The Melbourne club is desperate for the money to wipe out a debt that could jeopardise its future in the league.

The Knights are struggling in the league with a young and inexperienced squad, need to sign players but can't afford to until Celtic, one of the richest clubs in Britain, sends the money.

"We have confirmation from Croatia Zagreb that they will pay the money when they get it, but we will write to Celtic to find out what's going on," Mandekic said.

FIFA will forward the complaint from Croatia to the Scottish Football Association and has said it will intervene unless the matter is resolved. The Knights meanwhile are reluctant to pursue the matter legally at this stage.



Scott Thomas, the quiet achiever

THIS season a quiet revolution has been taking place at Belmore Sportsground.

Under first-season coach Branko Culina Sydney Olympic has been gradually building up its playing stocks.

Included in that change have been a number of big name signings, like Milan Blagojevic and Mehmet Durakovic.

Talented youngsters like Jason Culina and seasoned campaigners like Mark Brennan have also been brought in while maybe the retention of stars like Brett Emerton and Peter Tsekenis has been just as important.

But amongst them all the name of Scott Thomas has almost slipped by unnoticed.

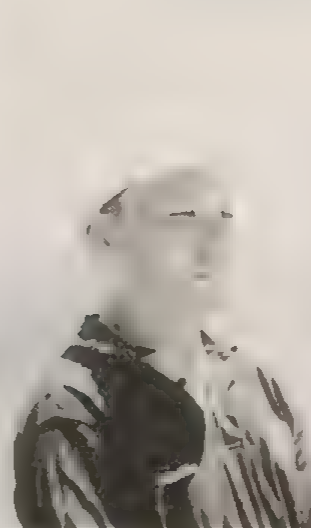
The compact defender, however, has done his talking where it counts most - on the field.

That he has managed to hold down his spot on the right side of defence while the galaxy of star players come and go has been a credit to his determination - and ability.

And if he has managed to please the at-times volatile Greek media then Thomas has surely arrived.

"I'm not that bothered about the attention that the team gets in the media," he said recently.

"I know that Olympic is a



Olympic defender Scott Thomas (centre) shares the media spotlight with coach Branko Culina and club captain Peter Tsekenis

big club and you really have to expect that.

"But we get past it by doing it together as a team.

"This is a good team and I really enjoy playing for Olympic."

Constant media spotlight is something that Thomas maybe didn't experience that much at his previous club, Newcastle Breakers, but it is a fact of life for the team often tagged the sleeping giants of Australian

soccer.

That Olympic have rarely managed to exploit the huge potential of their 15,000+ fan base is a regret of many associated with the club.

For some players it can prove a daunting weight around their necks.

But not, seemingly, for the quietly spoken but hard-tackling Thomas.

"I don't really think about it," he says. "I just get out and

play, I like being a full time footballer."

Thomas may yet prove to be the club's best signing.

Already he has proven a better buy than Adem Poric the midfielder who was signed in a blaze of publicity, left under equally headline splashing conditions and then after less than one match for new club Northern Spirit sits the rest of the season out with injury.

Gippsland Falcons

v

Carlton

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Aussie slide down new FIFA rankings

Brazil remained top of FIFA's new-look world rankings published by world soccer's governing body late last week.

World champions France remain second, while Germany has slipped back to fifth place from third.

Italy, moving up four places, and Croatia, who reached the semifinals of the World Cup last year after beating Germany in the quarters, are joint third.

The complicated formulae used to calculate the rankings have been revised and a "stabilising mechanism" has been introduced into the system designed to iron out what FIFA describe as "over-dramatic short term fluctuations" in teams' positions.

The rankings will also take into account only seven instead of eight games a year, and results over eight years rather than six years will be counted which means the world rankings now include performances over two World Cups.

Among the big risers under the new system is Portugal, up 19 places to 17th; Belgium, up 14 to 21st, and Bulgaria, up 19 places to 30th.

Wales, up 23 places to 74th is the biggest beneficiary of the changes in the top 100.

Big fallers include Yugosla-

via, down 10 to 16th, Japan, down 13 to 33rd, and Iran down 19 to 46th.

Another change includes the points tally which has been multiplied by 10 so that decimal points disappear from the list.

And Australia's steady drop down the FIFA rankings is unlikely to be arrested with the latest confirmation by Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella that a new national coach will not be appointed until the end of this year.

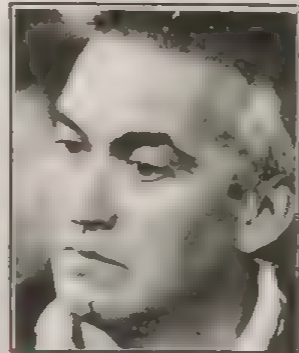
The likelihood is that the

The latest FIFA rankings

- 1 Brazil
- 2 France
- 3 Croatia
- Italy
- 5 Germany
- 6 Argentina
- 7 Czech Republic
- 8 Netherlands
- 9 Spain
- 10 Romania
- 11 England
- 12 Mexico
- 13 Norway
- 14 Sweden
- 15 Denmark
- 16 Yugoslavia
- 17 Portugal
- 18 Austria
- 19 Morocco
- 20 Chile
- 50 Australia

Socceroos will not be called into action until then with the focus shifting firmly to the Australian Olympic team.

And former Australian national coach Eddie Thomson is set to commence another



year of his recently extended contract with J League side, Hiroshima.

Thomson recently appointed former Sydney City star and Wolverhampton and Leicester assistant coach Mike Hickman to a similar role at Hiroshima.

Hickman replaces Tommy Sermanni who returned to Australia after two years in Japan to take up a post with the Canberra Cosmos.

Speculation within Australian media circles still links Thomson with the vacant Australian job - and is further fuelled by Scarsella's reluctance to appoint a successor to the post.

Wolves woes continue

WOLLONGONG Wolves have been ravaged by a series of injuries, loss of form and transfers.

Against Carlton in a recent match at Brandon Park key defender Alvin Ceccoli went missing to allow Andrew Marth to drift in to score an easy header.

"He has done that in the last two games," said coach Nick Theodorakopoulos after the match.

"How can you win games when your players make basic mistakes?"

But mistake or not there is little doubt that weighing heavily on Ceccoli's mind was an impending transfer to Greek mega club AEK Athens.

The Socceroo defender flew out last week on a deal which could net his club a cool \$400,000.

Recent lapses in form could be attributed to the uncertainty of his playing future.

Likewise Kosta Salapasis went through a horror patch shortly before he joined Spanish side Compastella.

Meanwhile the Wolves continue to struggle to find the form of last season.

While transfer uncertainty is a factor an-

other contributor is constant team line-up changes, some of them forced by injuries others by team changes.

Latest on the injured list are strikers Esala Masi and Michael Brooks. In recent weeks the two unsettled stars have proven a remarkable understanding in the fleeting moments that Theodorakopoulos has had them on the park at the same time.

Masi is a player with a dynamite shot and a definite nose for goal but has spent most of the season on the bench.

Likewise, Brooks has had little opportunity to show local fans exactly how well he can play.

But against Carlton and Melbourne Knights the pair showed signs that they can be a very good combination.

However, a total of nine stitches between them in leg and foot injuries will see that partnership put on hold for at least a couple of weeks.

Crowds continue to fall at Brandon Park and it remains to be seen whether the latest mid-season sell off will affect even the loyal fans as the club continues to express its interest in selling its current assets.

Bruce Campbell

Okon still linked with Marconi

LAZIO star Paul Okon might still be heading to Bossley Park, despite renewed interest from overseas.

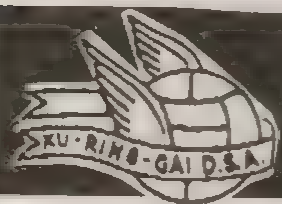
Last week Belgian club Anderlecht confirmed an offer which had been made to them last year. But the Sydneysider might still end up playing for Marconi.

"Why not?" said Marconi soccer manager Frank Labbozzetta.

"Paul's family lives just two streets from the club and he thinks fondly of us. I spoke to his father just a few days ago and he said that there was no question of Paul playing for any other club in Australia."

Media speculation has linked Okon with Perth Glory and Northern Spirit but Labbozzetta scoffs at those stories.

"Paul Okon will play for us if he plays in Australia," said Labbozzetta.



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Contact: Tonia Muxlow 9456 2319

Brooklyn Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Contact: Leo Houlcroft 9985 7641

Chase United Soccer Club
(U14, Adult, O35)
Contact: Stuart Dever 9482 3534

Chatswood Rangers Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6, 2pm-4pm
Mowbray Public School, Mowbray Rd
Contact: Geoff Jones 9419 3544 Juniors
John Schrooten 9411 1340 Adults

Christian Football Club
(Adult only)
Contact: John Toyer 99456 3624
Clarke Road Soccer Club
(Junior only)
Sunday February 14 & 21, 10am-5pm
Carrington Field, Carrington Rd, Wahroonga
Contact: Stephanie Binsted 9488 8352

Corpus Christi Hawks Soccer Club
(Junior only)
Contact: Terry Darlington 9449 2514

Dalleys Soccer Club

(Adult only)
Contact: Bob Tomasic 9958 1493

Gordon Soccer Club (Junior only)
Saturday February 13, 9-12, Gordon Shopping Centre
Saturday February 20, 9-12, Darnley Oval
Contact: Sandra Chong 9498 1264

Greenwich Sports Club
(Junior-Adult)
Thursday February 18, 6.30pm-8pm
Saturday February 20, 8.30am-10am
Greenwich Uniting Church Hall
Contact: Bob Campbell 9438 5999

Holy Family Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Justin Moses 9904 7943

Hornsby Hts Sports
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Sunday February 7, 9am-2pm
Montview Clubhouse, Kookaburra Rd, Hornsby Hts
Contact: Ian Imrie 9476 6435

Hornsby RSL Youth Club
(Junior only)
Contact: Adrian Arthur-Smith 9476 6274

Hornsby RSL
(Adult only)
Every Tuesday & Thursday in Feb, 6.30pm
Mills Park, Asquith
Contact: Roy Ashpole 9476 2054

Kissing Point Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Friday February 5, 6pm-9pm
Saturday February 5 & 13, 9am-4pm
Sunday February 14, 9am-4pm - Seniors only
Auluba Clubhouse, Auluba Rd, Turramurra
Contact: Sharyn Hill 9449 7107

Knox Old Boys
(Adult only)
Contact: John Bradfield 9488 7721

Lane Cove Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6, 9am-12noon

Longueville Sporting Club
Contact: Rod Campbell 9420 4011

Lane Cove West Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Sue Heffernan 9949 3914

Lindfield Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6, 8.30am-1pm
West Lindfield Bowling Club, Highfields Rd
Contact: David Kok 9972 0621 Senior Mens
Eric Forsythe 9416 5697 Juniors & Women

Mosman Marist Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Paul Hammerton 9969 5906

Mount Colah Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 10am-2pm
Mount Colah Public School, Telopia St
Contact: Chris Freer 9457 8992

Mt Kuring-gai Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Kevin Vanner 9457 9412

Mt St Bernard Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Rocco Crino 9449 7032

Northbridge Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Sunday February 7, 10am-12noon
Northbridge Oval, Sailors Bay Rd
Contact: Nikki Mackay 9958 2646

Northside Monash Soccer Club
(Juniors-Adult)
Contact: Jeff Miller 9983 9689

North Sydney Bears Soccer Club
(Juniors-Adult)
Sunday February 7, 9am-12noon
Cammeray Oval Dressing Sheds
Contact: Allan Stomann 9955 2522 Juniors
Mike Speed 0417 037 887 Mens

North Sydney Boys High
(U12-Adult)
Contact: Zaheer Reporter 9953 5681

North Sydney Artarmon Soccer Club
(Adult only & Womens)
Contact: Simon Cox 9922 1128

North Turramurra Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Chris Soupidis 9449 1154

Prouille Soccer Club
(Junior & O35)
Saturday February 6, 9am-12noon
Prouille School, Water St, Wahroonga
Contact: Chris Goldrick 9144 2652

St Ives Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 9am-2pm
St Ives Village Shopping Centre
Contact: Vicki McComas 9440 8292

St Michaels Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: John O'Neill 9427 4380

Uni of Technology Soccer Club
(Adult only & Womens)
Sunday February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 5pm-7pm
UTS Kuring-gai Campus, Eton Rd, Lindfield
Contact: Mat Fitzgerald 9980 8550 Mens
Pam Fransen 9719 2523 Womens

Wahroonga Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6, 9am-1pm
Sunday February 14, 9am-1pm
Golden Jubilee Oval, Wahroonga
Contact: Margie Caskey 9489 7615

West Pymble Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 9am-12noon
West Pymble Shops, Kendall St
Contact: John Hill 9498 5443

Willoughby United Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Roupen Manjiikian 9958 2839

KDSA Inc. Phone 9477 6521 Fax 9477 2854
email: admin@kdsa.asn.au



KICK OFF



Derek Royal previews the 1999 NSW Super League

BANKSTOWN CITY

1998 Finish: 7th

Season 1998 was one of Bankstown City's worse in recent memory and while the club's supporters will want to forget a year in which the first team won just eight from 22 matches, there were some positives.

Plenty of youngsters were given the opportunity to play first grade and some, like Steve Eagleton and David Aceski showed they had enough skill to play Ericsson Cup football.

In fact, without Aceski's heroics in goal, Bankstown City could easily have slipped even further down the competition table.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

David Trposki: New coach Sakib Lovic believes the youngster has a big future. A dynamic midfielder, Trposki could be the lynchpin in Lovic's endeavour to play attractive, attacking football. Perhaps even leadership material.

Michael Hawrysiuk: An attacking full-back, Hawrysiuk is tipped as one of Bankstown's players to watch. Tony Josevski: A first class midfielder who trialled for Sydney Olympic, Josevski has the talent to eventually join the likes of Aceski and Eagleton in the Ericsson Cup.

YOUNG GUNS Wayne Gibson: A talented midfield playmaker who transferred from St George in the off season.

Richard Lukic: An outstanding young player.

STRENGTHS

Midfield, Defence

WEAKNESSES

Lack of strikepower

PLAYER GAINS

Wayne Gibson (St George), Eddie Danielle (Marconi), Nabil Godmani (Auburn United), Mark Abi-Arrage (Fairfield Bulls)

PLAYER LOSSES

Steve Eagleton (Sydney United), David Aceski (Marconi), Alan Stajic (injured), Paul Bentvezen (injured)

FACT FILE

Coach: Sakib Lovic

Assistant Coach: not available

Captain: not available

SQUAD

Mark Abi-Arrage, Zoki Adioski, Joe Badrov, Stuart Van Bantum, Nabil Godmani, Eddie Danielle, Wayne Gibson, Kiro Grozdanovski, Michael Hawrysiuk, Robert Issa, George Issa, Kiro Josevski, Tony Josevski, Mendo Losevski, Richard Lukic, Damien Lukic, Leo Premutico, Mile Todorovski, Alex Trposki, Bobby Zafirov

CRYSTAL BALL

New coach Sakib Lovic, an ex-first division player from the former Yugoslavia, has the credentials to lead this year's side to an improved showing.

And he'll do so without the aid of a cheque book. Bankstown hasn't spent money on new players and the coach is developing players from the club's youth.

Lovic is high on discipline and he has been impressed with some of the youngsters in the trials. Indeed, Bankstown's preseason form has been impressive, with convincing victories against Sutherland Sharks, Eastern Suburbs and Parramatta City indicating that season '99 should be a cracker.

BLACKTOWN CITY

1998 Finish: 2nd in minor premiership - Champions

Blacktown's path to last season's Grand Final was fraught with danger, yet the team survived. In consecutive weeks they beat Macarthur, lost to White Eagles, then beat Macarthur again to set up a Grand Final meeting with their old sparring partners from Bonnyrigg. An extra time grand final victory against White Eagles capped a magnificent season and perhaps proved that finishing second in the minor premiership - and having extra match play - can have its advantages.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jon Angelucci: A brilliant sharpshooter who scored 15 goals in 1998, it's amazing Angelucci hasn't been signed by an Ericsson Cup outfit this season. He finished runner-up in the Super League's Golden Boot award.

Fernando Greco: Goalkeeper Greco's brilliance between the sticks is one reason Blacktown only conceded 25 goals in '98.

Damien Foxe: Captain and the heart of the Blacktown defence, Foxe's influence

will be crucial in team's quest to defend their title.

YOUNG GUNS

Nelson McLaughlin: A left-sided attacker, the 17 year-old has yet to play for the first team, but big things are expected of him should he make the breakthrough.

Steve Riches: A current first grader and barely out of his teens, Riches plays an attacking wingback role. Definitely a young man with potential.

STRENGTHS

The "Holy Trinity" of Foxe, Greco and Angelucci

WEAKNESSES

Second-year syndrome and complacency could prove to be the most difficult obstacles to overcome.

PLAYLR GAINS

Not available

PLAYER LOSSES

Steve Berry (Sydney United on loan), Damon Langan (Wollongong)

FACT FILE

Coach: Brian Brown

Assistant Coach: Tom McMorrow

Captain: Damien Foxe

SQUAD not available

CRYSTAL BALL

One of the secrets to Blacktown's premiership success was the fact that the team got along so well off the paddock. Former assistant coach Brian Brown takes over the first grade reigns from Alex Robertson and his major task is to maintain the momentum created by last year's premiership success.

With the likes of Damien Foxe, Jon Angelucci, Fernando Greco, and the returning Steve Berry around the joint, keeping their feet on the ground shouldn't be a problem.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE

1998 Finish: 4th - Semi Finalists

Season '98 proved to be the Berries' best in years. Even a semi-final defeat to neighbours Eastern Suburbs couldn't wipe the smiles from faces of the Henson Park faithful.

Striker Jimmy Nikas shared the

league's best and fairest award and his partnership with new-buy Nick Bosevski has the potential to be something special.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Nick Bosevski: Big things are expected of the former Sydney United youngster.

His goal-scoring nous and Ericsson Cup experience will enhance the Berries' championship hopes in '99.

Jimmy Nikas: As a youngster, Nikas spent time at the AIS and Sydney Olympic, so the pedigree is there. His partnership with Bosevski promises to be special.

Jose Mendes: Mendes came through Sydney Olympic's youth system and has found his niche as a superb Super League player.

YOUNG GUNS

Steve Liavas: Blessed with pace and a ton of ability, Liavas has come through Canterbury's junior ranks. Had a spell at Wollongong and that experience will boost his chances of making an impact this season.

Jason Wells: A defensive midfielder who enjoys rolling his sleeves up and getting into the hard yakka. Recently acquired from the Hurstville Minotaurs, it will be interesting to see how Wells adapts to playing at a higher level.

STRENGTHS

The 1998 team is intact, including coach John Xipolitis, so combinations won't be a problem, while the addition of Nick Bosevski gives the team more strikepower. The Berries also boast more depth this season.

WEAKNESSES

The retirement of captain Spiro Hantzis will be a big loss, while the defence could be a concern.

PLAYER GAINS

Jane Talceski (Marconi on loan), Nick Bosevski (Sydney United), Jason Wells (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Adrian Molachino (St George), Brett Hewitt (Bankstown assoc.), Zoran Ilic (Leichhardt), Rudi Nasser, Bryan Raeburn (Gladesville assoc.), Adam Confoy (indoor soccer)

PLAYER LOSSES

Matt Shepherd (overseas), Con Anagnostopoulos (semi retired)

FACT FILE

Coach: John Xipolitis

Assistant Coach: Laki Konistis

Captain: Matt Percy

SQUAD

Steve Tolios, Michael Raeburn, Michael

Tsigolis, Terry Palapanis, Jose Mendes, Matt Percy, Jane Talceski, Robert Jerkovic, Nick Bosevski, Simon Fedele, Jim Nikas, Steve Christoforidis, Angelo Markopoulos, George Kateriannis, Jason Wells, Adrian Molachino, Brett Hewitt, Zoran Ilic, Rudi Nasser, Adam Confoy, Bryan Raeburn, Morris Soler

CRYSTAL BALL

Signing Sydney United's young Nick Bosevski could prove to be the shrewdest buy of the season, and his partnership with sharpshooter Jim Nikas will give the Henson Park faithful plenty to cheer about.

Also, the Berries are still in the hunt for a couple of national league players to bolster an already impressive squad, while Marconi loan player Jane Talceski will be with the club for the full season.

Anything other than a top five finish will be disappointing.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

1998 Finish: Premiers - Grand Finalists

Coach John Turner would have been devastated after last season's grand final loss to Blacktown. His side won the minor premiership, they scored the most goals and conceded the least.

Yet, a 1-0 extra time defeat in the premiership decider showed just how cruel this game can be. Now in his third year as coach, "Sir John" will be hoping to avenge that loss and only premiership glory will fully exorcise the demons of '98.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Robert Gomez: A quick deep-lying striker, Gomez will play an influential role in his team's premiership charge this year.

Colin Luff: Alongside Gomez, sharp-shooting Luff forms one of the most potent goal-scoring combos in the league.

Paul Richardson: The White Eagles' skipper provides plenty of class and inspira-

tion from the midfield.

YOUNG GUNS

Konrad Leski: The former Sydney United striker has the talent to play in the first team, but with Gomez and Luff doing the business up front, he may have to serve a lengthy apprenticeship.

Paul Aguilera: At 17, the former Sydney United midfielder has the class to play firsts and it wouldn't surprise if coach Turner gave him an opportunity some time this season.

Mladen Kos: A talented goalkeeper now in his second season of first team football, the lanky custodian is a product of the White Eagles' junior ranks.

STRENGTHS

Coach Turner has the same personnel from last season and with the addition of Benjamin Green (Macarthur Rams) and the return of local talent Roman Nikolic, the White Eagles are looking good.

WEAKNESSES

With so many gifted players at the club, squad harmony will be imperative if the White Eagles are to succeed in '99.

PLAYER GAINS

Benjamin Green (Macarthur Rams), Roman Nikolic (re-signed)

PLAYER LOSSES

Mark Hoenselaars (Fairfield Bulls), Graeme Wotton (Macarthur Rams)

FACT FILE

Coach: John Turner

Assistant Coach: Vince Lattier

Captain: Paul Richardson

SQUAD (Contracted Players)

Mladen Kos, David Harding, Javier Mancino, Milan Crnkovic, Scott Xuereb, Paul Richardson, Benjamin Green, Borislav Dragas, Robert Gomez, Mark Racker, Johnny Ghiso, Stuart Nielson, Colin Luff, James Warburton, Danny Poljak, Goran Vulic, Konrad Leski, Paul Aguilera, Sasha Bozic, Paul Dee, Roman Nikolic

CRYSTAL BALL

Bonnyrigg White Eagles have strengthened their squad with the addition of three first class players to an already strong premiership outfit. Roman Nikolic has returned after sitting out last year, while former Rams midfielder Benjamin Green and Canberra Cosmos national league star Paul Dee give the side an even more polished look.

A strict disciplinarian and good motivator, coach Turner will be expecting big things from his team.

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES

1998 Finish: 10th

Allan Bourke's young side may have struggled last season, but the club is looking forward to a bright future. With club politics a major distraction in season '98, the new Central Coast Coasties will start afresh in '99, with a solid club infrastructure and a youthful team confident of performing well.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Steve Angelov: An ex Australian youth international, Angelov's experience between the sticks will be a bonus to a side that conceded too many goals last season.

Angelov has impressed in pre-season trials and his presence is a confidence boost to his backline.

Scott Wells: Wells has stood out in the preseason trials and his experience has been an asset to the Coasties' young midfield. A former Young Socceroo, Wells has spent the last few years honing his game in Hong Kong, Norway and England.

Peter Preston: Preston's reputation in the competition is immense and his selection as captain well earned. Arguably the best attacking midfielder in Super League football, Preston scored an impressive nine goals last season.

YOUNG GUNS

Brent Demery: A first team debutante last season, Demery now understands the expectations of playing at Super League level. The youngster learnt plenty from the experience.

Stuart Sontag: Sontag made the most of his first team opportunities last year and the talented midfielder will be keen to help the Coasties improve in 1999.

STRENGTHS

The youngsters from last year's side are now a year older and a year wiser, while the acquisition of a few experienced players can only boost the team's fortunes.

Also, the depth at the club has improved considerably.

WEAKNESSES

The Coasties conceded the most goals in the league last season, so the team's defence must be improved.

PLAYER GAINS

Steve Angelov, Scott Wells, Jai McDermott, David Maltby, Justin Norman, Scott Tonkiss, Mark Drysdale

PLAYER LOSSES

Shane Knight (Macarthur)

FACT FILE

Coach: Allan Bourke

Assistant Coach: John McLafferty

Captain: Peter Preston

SQUAD

Steve Angelov, Brent Demery, Mark Drysdale, Marcus Steele, Aaron Binskin, Scott Wells, Peter Preston (c), Wes Bennett, Nathan Byrn, Justin Norman, Craig Tonkiss, David Maltby, Stuart Sontag, Derryk Kane, Jai McDermott, Gary Meier

CRYSTAL BALL

The experience gained by youngsters Marcus Steele, Brent Devery and Stuart Sontag in '98 will be a boost to the club's fortunes this season, as will the acquisition of the experienced Steve Angelov, Scott Wells and ex-captain Mark Drysdale.

Club depth has improved considerably and it appears the off-field dramas have been settled. Now that Allan Bourke's team can concentrate on playing football, the Coasties look like enjoying a bumper season.

EASTERN SUBURBS

1998 Finish: 5th - Semi-Finalists

Eastern Suburbs should have been sitting pretty and looking forward to the new season with confidence. After all, last year's Super League newcomer's won the pre-season cup and reached the semi-finals, while the under 21s progressed to the preliminary final.

But since then, the club has suffered a mass defection of players and the loss of first grade coach Joe Watson.

Why? Money. Or should we say, lack of it. Pure and simple.

New coach John Calleja has the difficult task of moulding a team of unknowns into a competitive force. "It's a big challenge, but I'm looking forward to it," he said. "I wouldn't have minded a few extra weeks preparation, but we'll

have to make do."

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Tony Canning: Big things are expected of the big Irish stopper who boasts plenty of overseas experience. A good leader and fine ball distributor, Canning's a non-stop talker and his communication skills at the back will be a positive influence on the side.

Yavos Ekinci: The 21 year-old midfielder had a wonderful season last year. Coach Calleja will be expecting bigger and better things from Ekinci in '99.

Rudi Jerkovic: Now into his 11th season at the club, Jerkovic's longevity is an inspiration to his team-mates, while his experience will be invaluable to the team's aspirations.

YOUNG GUNS

Naoki Imaiya: Imaiya recently trialled with Eddie Thomson's Sanfrece Hiroshima club in Japan and the gifted midfielder impressed the former Socceroo coach.

Now in his second season with the club, he's likely to make an impression.

Shane Swords: Swords isn't currently in the first team squad, but he has the potential to break into the side some time this year. Depending on his attitude, he has the goods to go places.

STRENGTHS

Youth, enthusiasm and a high workrate. The current squad will be busting a gut to make the most of the golden opportunity created by the mass defection of players to other clubs.

WEAKNESSES

Inexperience and due to early start to the season, limited preparation.

PLAYER GAINS

Mark Beldham (Warringah Dolphins), Tony Canning (Ireland), Steve Lawrence (Fraser Park), Unal Ogman (Auburn United), Donald Stout (Scotland)

PLAYER LOSSES

Les Bihari (Ryde City), Dave Segreto (Ryde City), Craig Sharpley (Ryde City),

Vadim Mikoutski (overseas), Mick Daniels (overseas), Scott Mutton (Bathurst), Phil Moss (Northern Spirit), Peter Sermanni (released), Jason Bennett (retired), Steve Hickman (released)

FACT FILE

Coach: John Calleja

Assistant Coach: Rade Kresojevic

Captain: Tony Canning (until Matt Dihn returns from illness)

SQUAD

Mark Beldham, Tony Canning, Steve Lawrence, Yavos Ekinci, Steve McCombe, Peter Pulicino, Rudi Jerkovic, Matt Dihn, Adam Mark, David Severes, Patrick Darvill, Hulusi Orhan, Unal Ogman, Donald Stout, Naoki Imaiya, Con Anastasiadis, Ricky Somboli, Con Sigmus

CRYSTAL BALL

Intangibles such as courage, spirit and enthusiasm will play a big part in determining how well the side goes this season. "What we may lack in skill, we'll make up for in youth, enthusiasm and a high workrate," says coach John Calleja.

Such a raw cocktail can have devastating results and Calleja's team will give plenty of the more fancied sides a good run for their money.

FAIRFIELD BULLS

1998 Finish: Federation Division One Champions (newly-promoted)

For many years Fairfield Bulls have believed they could out it in Super League. Now the newly-promoted club has the opportunity to prove it. The Bulls' first team won last year's Federation Division One premiership, but suffered a narrow defeat to eventual premier's Manly-Warringah in the preliminary final. Not that Bulls fans are concerned. Playing in elite company is certainly a good consolation prize, and despite losing coach Marshall Soper and over half their first team, the Bulls should be competitive.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Sam Larocca: Energetic, very fit, skilful and fast, the 21 year-old midfielder is the perfect athlete with the ability to shoot.

On preseason form, Larocca will be a big hit this year.

Matthew Borg: Signed from Ryde City, the lanky striker missed most of last season through injury. For a big man, Borg possesses plenty of speed and as expected, is very good in the air. Could be one of the top marksmen in the league.

this year
George Zabetakis: A utility capable of playing in the midfield or defence, Zabetakis is very comfortable wherever he plays. A good tackler and industrious worker with excellent ball control, coach Watson expects the former Hurstville City star to be a big hit in Super League YOUNG GUNS

Martin Batala: A young midfielder, Batala has the capacity to score goals and is a very good support player for his forwards. Will be keen to make an impression

Wayne Spiteri: Spiteri has terrific close control and dribbles the ball well. A very good striker who knows how to score goals

STRENGTHS
Being an unknown quantity will surprise the established teams in the Super League. Also, the team's ability to score goals is a bonus.

WEAKNESSES
On limited preparation, coach Joe Watson has the difficult task of building a team from scratch. The Bulls have attracted plenty of new hopefuls but combinations will probably take some time to develop

PLAYER GAINS
Sam Larocca (Sydney Olympic), Matthew Borg (Ryde City), George Zabetakis (Hurstville City), Martin Driene (Moorebank), Phil Treharne (Leichhardt), Jason Salzon (Leichhardt), Mark Honselaars (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Paul Bourke (Leichhardt), Mike Vrankovic (Wollongong White Eagles), Sean Cahill (Wollongong White Eagles), Dragan Tupovac (Mt Pritchard), Nick Mandic (Eastern Suburbs)

PLAYER LOSSES
Ante Zizic, David Petrovic, Mark Abi-Arrage, Ian Stoddard, Angelo Rodic, Nihad Ahmed, John Tratselas

FACT FILE
Coach: Joe Watson
Assistant Coach: John McKie
Captain: not available

SQUAD
Matthew Borg, Paul Bourke, Sean Cahill, Martin Driene, Rick Gionetti, Chris Gionetti, Robert Grubba, Mark Honselaars, Darren Iocca, Sam Larocca, Nick Mandic, Jason Salzon, Sasha Taleviski, Phil Treharne, Dragan Tupovac, Mike Vrankovic, George Zabetakis, CRYSTAL BALL

Despite losing coach Marshall Soper and

Fitness is an area the Tigers have neglected in the past. But not under new coach Bertogna, who has the team in peak physical condition. Defence is also an area the Tigers will excel.

WEAKNESSES
Strikepower, midfield playmaker

PLAYER GAINS
John Pillimer (St George), Fabio Macolino (St George), Chris Lansdowne (Macarthur), David James (Hajduk), Frank Mikulic (Adelaide Sharks)

PLAYER LOSSES Christian Ortiz (released), Phil Treharne (released), Daniel Totaro (released), John Buonavoglia (Newcastle Breakers), Bob Catlin (Newcastle Breakers)

FACT FILE
Coach: Arno Bertogna
Assistant Coach: Billy McColl
Captain: Jeremy Pette-

SQUAD
Frank Mikulic, John Pillemar, Anthony Tesoro, Blago Milicovic, Jeremy Pettenon, Eric Hristodoulou, Vince Savoca, David James, Jay Anderson, Leon Alexiou, Fabio Macolino, Chris Lansdowne, Sam Lammachia, Tom Bazdaric, Hassan Kdouh, Mita Talceviski, David Petrini CRYSTAL BALL

Arno Bertogna's arrival at the club has been like a breath of fresh air and once again, there's an air of confidence about the Tigers. Bertogna's quiet, assured manner and analytical football brain holds the key to the club's fortunes this season. After a lean '98 season, the Lambert Park faithful may very well have something to cheer about - provided the players are capable of meeting Bertogna's high standards.

MACARTHUR RAMS
1998 Finish: 3rd - Pre-

SQUAD
not available
CRYSTAL BALL
Last season's third place finish will be a hard act to follow, but the Rams have acquired some new faces and the new season looks promising. Just one game away from a grand final appearance in '98, there's no reason why Macarthur, under the astute guidance of Casey De Bruin, can't go further this time around.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES
1998 Finish: 6th
In recent years the Eagles have been one of the league's most successful clubs, so last year's failure to reach the Super League semis proved to be a major disap-



Bonnyrigg attacking defensive player Paul Dee

the Eagles will do well to make this year's semi-finals.

RYDE CITY
1998 Finish: 11th
Ryde's inconsistency last year proved to be a nightmare for coach Les De Celis. How could a team that was capable of beating minor premier's Bonnyrigg White Eagles and semi-finalist's Canterbury lose to lowly St George? The side also managed draws with premier's Blacktown and third-placed Macarthur Rams, yet they slumped to some terrible losses against teams they were expected to beat. Ryde City certainly had the ability to do well, but inexperience and inconsistency cost them dearly.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Les Bihari: A newcomer from the successful Eastern Suburbs outfit, Bihari has been signed to replace retired goalkeeper Tony Avellino.

Craig Sharpley: Another acquisition from Eastern Suburbs, Sharpley's skill in midfield will be much appreciated by the Ryde City faithful. John Koch: Koch was one of Ryde's best last season and the classy sweeper/midfielder is likely to make an impact in '99.

YOUNG GUNS
Andrew Nicol: At 18, the athletic defender has a bright future and coach Les De Celis expects him to join the Ericsson Cup ranks in the near future.

Ross Kethel: Just 17, Kethel is another defender who De Celis believes will make the step up to the national league without too much bother.

STRENGTHS
Depth
WEAKNESSES Inconsistency
PLAYER GAINS
Les Bihari (Eastern

Suburbs), Craig Sharpley (Eastern Suburbs), Dave Segreto (Eastern Suburbs)
PLAYER LOSSES
Matthew Borg (Fairfield Bulls), John McKie (retired), Richard Miranda (retired), Tony Avellino (retired)

FACT FILE
Coach: Les De Celis
Assistant Coach: Richard Miranda
Captain: Chris Cowley
SQUAD not available
CRYSTAL BALL

Ryde City's mental toughness - or lack of it - let them down last year and that's an area coach Les De Celis will need to address going into the new season. Without the funds to go out buying replacements, the club must have faith in the youngsters who played such a large part in last year's campaign.

Given the fact that Ryde City's inexperience probably harmed their chances in

1998, being a year older and year wiser can only be good for the club's hopes in '99.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE
1998 Finish: 9th

The Sharks rejoiced in beating Parramatta Eagles last year, but a slow start to the season hijacked their league aspirations. By the time the club got its act together, it was too late. Still, the team's mid-season surge showed that on a given day, the Sharks had the ability to beat anyone.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Craig Hobbs: A prolific goalscorer, the young aborigine has ambitions of playing Ericsson Cup football. A prosperous Super League season could see him fulfil that dream.

Levi Stephen: Sutherland's midfield lacked authority in '98 and coach Lavin will be looking to Stephen to add some spice to the middle of the park.

Malcolm Bideau: Sharks fans will be hoping that Bideau's influence will improve the team's leaky defence.

YOUNG GUNS
Mark Baric: A club junior, Sharks officials have high hopes for the youngster and expect him to progress from under 18s to the first team at some time this season.

Jimmy Corbo: A talented striker from St George, Corbo's combination with the enigmatic

Craig Hobbs could be just what the Sharks need to be competitive.

STRENGTHS
Preparation is better than last season.

WEAKNESSES
The Sharks struggled to score goals last season, managing a meagre 17 from 22 matches. Midfield is also another area they could improve.

PLAYER GAINS
Keegan Pillay (Rockdale), Eduardo Giraldo (St George), Jimmy Corbo (St George), Aaron Harris (local junior), Achilleas Markopoulos (Stanmore)

PLAYER LOSSES
Grant Bard (Parramatta Eagles), Paul Henderson (Northern Spirit), Adam Griffiths (Northern Spirit), Robert Savest (retired), Tony Brandtman (injured), David Blinoff (USA), David Tedosco (USA)

FACT FILE
Coach: John Lavin
Assistant Coach: Walter Alvarez

Captain: Matthew Richardson
SQUAD Dennis Olla, Adam Daley, Aaron Harris, Matthew Richardson, Jeff Summers, Malcolm Bideau, Achilleas Markopoulos, Levi Stephen, Craig Hobbs, Sam Mozsny, Jimmy Corbo, Keegan Pillay, Eduardo Giraldo, Jeff Podesta, Brandt Riley, Cord Tolson

CRYSTAL BALL
Losing Grant Bard (Parramatta Eagles) and Paul Henderson and Adam Griffiths to Northern Spirit makes life difficult for the Sharks. But it's something they'll have to live with. This year's side looks solid and what it may lack in flair, it will make up for in grit and determination. Coach John Lavin has a more settled side than he did at this time last season, so the Sharks have the opportunity to start the season with a hiss and a roar, rather than a whimper.

over half of last year's first team, the Bulls should be competitive. An influx of new players and a class coach in Joe Watson - who led newly-promoted Eastern Suburbs to the semi-finals last season - could be the combination to lead the Bulls to success in their first year with the big boys.

LEICHHARDT TIGERS
1998 Finish: 8th

Suddenly the Tigers are looking half decent. And it's not because they've spent big time. Far from it. Since appointing ex-Socceroo and former APLA star Arno Bertogna as coach, the club's attitude has changed. Leichhardt has become more professional. And Bertogna has brought style and sanity to the joint.

The club's biggest problem in recent years has been the fact that they've spent too much money on players who failed to deliver. After finishing a disappointing eighth last season, the Tigers have decided to build a team for the future and more local juniors are expected to grace the white, maroon and sky blue strip in the years to come.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Chris Lansdowne: A new signing from Macarthur, Lansdowne's direct play up front has impressed Tigers officials in recent trials.

Frank Mikulic: The former Adelaide Sharks goalkeeper chose to return to Sydney after suffering a leg injury last year. Mikulic's sharp trial form suggests his decision to return home will be worthwhile.

Eric Hristodoulou: Coach Bertogna expects the experienced Hristodoulou to lead the Tigers by example. The former Olympic, Marconi and Wollongong journeyman will direct the traffic from sweeper and should be the cornerstone of the team.

YOUNG GUNS
David James: To some club officials the former second division player looks special. Could prove to be something out of the box.

Jay Anderson: A tall, strapping striker, Anderson joined the club from Blacktown two years ago, but due to a bout of glandular fever, his contribution to last year's team was minimal. He'll be keen to show Bertogna he's worthy of a regular first team spot.

STRENGTHS

liminary Finalists Season '98 proved to be the best in Rams history for not only did the club reach the preliminary final, they also beat Parramatta Eagles and Canterbury-Marrickville for the first time in history. **PLAYERS TO WATCH** John Crawley: Crawley spent five years with Colo Colo (Chile) and the talented goalkeeper has been with Macarthur for the past two years.

Dion Valle: An Australian-born Chilean youth international, Valle has the ability to play in defence or midfield. A former Colo Colo (Chile) player, Valle's experience and skill is a terrific asset to the ambitious Rams.

Shane Knight: A newly-acquired midfielder from the Coasties, Knight makes the long journey between his central coast home and Macarthur's Lynwood Park twice a week. If dedication counts for anything, Knight will be a tremendous signing for the Rams.

YOUNG GUNS
Dale Clayton: A young man renowned as a ball-player and accurate ball distributor, Clayton has yet to play firsts, but would grab such an opportunity with both hands.

Wes Horne: A club apprentice and under 21 player who has yet to play firsts, Horne is just waiting for the right opportunity to win his first team spurs.

Matthew Thompson: The Rams' most promising player, Thompson heads to England for trials with Middlesbrough next month. Played under 18s and under 21s last year.

STRENGTHS
The new strike force of Ian McDonald and Jim Ashner, and Shane Knight in midfield. Unfortunately Ashner is out with a broken leg, but when he returns his partnership with McDonald is expected to be potent.

WEAKNESSES Defence

PLAYER GAINS
Ian McDonald (Rockdale), Jim Ashner (Malaysia), Danny Cerjack (Camden), Graeme Wotton (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Shane Knight (Central Coast)

PLAYER LOSSES
Daniel Cummings (Bundaberg), Benjamin Green (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Luke O'Connell (retired)

FACT FILE
Coach: Casey De Bruin
Assistant Coach: not available
Captain: Martin Burke

pointment. Ace goal-scorers Saso Petrovski and Steve Karavatakis did their bit to keep the side in the hunt, but in the end, it just wasn't enough.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Grant Bard: A new acquisition from Sutherland Sharks, Bard has been signed to counter the loss of brilliant goalscorers Petrovski and Karavatakis. Eagles fans expect a lot from their players, so the newcomer's ability to meet the challenge will be watched with interest.

Pat O'Grady: Just out of his teens, this season is young O'Grady's second in the Eagles' first team.

Jason Holmes: Coach Roberto Viera is looking to Holmes' experience to inspire the side to a final five position.

YOUNG GUNS
Glen Mielak: Mielak is on the fringe of first team selection and his progress in the midfield will be closely monitored by coach Viera and his staff.

Anthony Panzarino: Panzarino played a few first team games off the bench last season and will be looking to consolidate a permanent place in the Eagles' starting lineup.

STRENGTHS
Plenty of experience and height on defence.

WEAKNESSES
Depth and the loss of class players Gabriel Mendez, Saso Petrovski and Steve Karavatakis.

PLAYER GAINS
Grant Bard (Sutherland), Alex Araujo (St George)

PLAYER LOSSES
Gabriel Mendez (Northern Spirit), Saso Petrovski (Wollongong), Steve Karavatakis (Wollongong), Stethan Jee (injury)

FACT FILE
Coach: Roberto Viera
Assistant Coach: Bruce Tilt
Captain: Mark Ravelli

SQUAD not available
CRYSTAL BALL

The loss of midfield general Gabriel Mendez to Northern Spirit, and goal machines Saso Petrovski and Steve Karavatakis to Wollongong, makes life extremely difficult for Roberto Viera's Eagles. The club has done its best to plug the gaps, but replacing players of such class cannot be done overnight. New strikers Bard and Araujo have plenty to prove and

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND ONE

Saturday 6th February

Macarthur Rams vs Central Coast

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Blacktown City Demons vs Eastern Suburbs

Gabbie Stadium, 6:00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Bankstown City Lions

Serbian Centre, 6:00pm

Sunday 7th February

Ryde City vs Fairfield Bulls

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers vs Parramatta Eagles

Lambert Park, 5:00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Sutherland Sharks

Henson Park, 6:00pm

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

(15c per min - 10c. Higher rates apply to mobile and public phones)



Talking Soccer

with Carlton S.C.'s
SEAN DOUGLAS



PART 2 of an interview with Chris Turner of the Auckland Kings.

Chris, do the Kings have any main sponsors yet that you could reveal to us?

"We don't have a naming sponsor yet, so there is an opportunity for interested parties there."

"But we do have three main subsidiary sponsors, five minor sponsors, and a number of private investors in place."

"We will be having a formal launch of the club in the near future where everything will be announced."

What about a ground? And what sort of crowds are you hoping for?

"We are 95% sure that we will be based at North Harbour stadium."

"North Harbour stadium is a two year old stadium that recently staged the World Cup qualifier match between

Australia and New Zealand - and I have been assured that the pitch will be in much better condition than it was for that game!"

"As for crowds, we are working on a worst case/best case scenario."

"We see a hard core support of about 5-7,000 people, but could realistically expect anywhere up to 20,000."

"So a middle ground of around 10-12,000 people would be what we would aim for."

"We have a bit of advantage over other Ericsson Cup clubs in that every two weeks we will essentially be hosting an international match."

"The sporting rivalry between NZ and Australia is well documented and we will use this to help us bring in the crowds."

"We are also drawing parallels between ourselves and Perth."

"Both cities have a

similar population base, and both cities only support one Ericsson Cup team."

Each team in the Ericsson Cup is allowed three "foreigners". Will this apply to the Kings?

"Initially we will be allowed five foreigners, with the number reducing to three within three years."

Will the club be a full-time operation in terms of playing and administration staff?

"We have the option of both a part-time and a full-time set-up."

"But Soccer Australia are pushing to have all clubs fully professional by the year 2000 so we have budgeted for a full-time professional set-up."

Murray named in FIFA All-star line-up



LAST week FIFA announced the team of World Stars that will face the U.S. Women's National Team in the first-ever FIFA Women's World All-Star Game to be held on 14 February at Spartan Stadium in San Jose, California.

Included in the galaxy of stars is Matilda Julie Murray.

Murray has been an almost permanent fixture in the Australian Women's team for a decade.

Originally from Canberra Murray has also played overseas as a professional in Denmark.

This is the highest honour ever awarded to a Matilda outside of Australia.

The Women's World Cup final draw will be conducted during half-time at the All-star match on a specially constructed stage.

The 16 nations will be placed into four groups of four teams each and the schedule for the tournament will also be set at the live draw.

Both the All-Star Match and Final Draw will be broadcast live on ESPN2, starting at 5 p.m. PT. Local USA time.

The World Stars team

will bring together some of the finest players from around the globe who will be looking to make the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup their stage next summer.

It will be made up of one player from each of the qualified teams and three players from teams that did not qualify so as to continue the promotion of women's soccer around the world.

The coaches for the World Stars will be Gunilla Pajkull, the legendary coach of Sweden's 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup team and a pioneer in the women's game, and Sylvie Belineau, the former national team coach of Canada, who led her team to the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup.

The FIFA World All Stars

Goa Hong (Goalkeeper; China)
Most acrobatic goal keeper in the world, faced USA in Olympic Final
Ulrika Karlsson (Goalkeeper; Sweden)
The total package: Voted top keeper at '97 Euro Championships
Kim Sun Hui (Defender; DPR Korea)
Captained team to historic victory over Japan and WWC'99 berth
Lene Terp (Defender; Denmark)
'95 World Cup and '96 Olympic veteran is a physical force in back
Linda Medalen (Defender; Norway)
One of world's legendary players; Team captain who has over 100 caps
Corinne Diacre (Defender; France)
Led team to brink of World Cup berth, but lost key game to Finland
Sara Mohamed (Defender; Egypt)
16-year old is part of first generation of players from Arab countries
Homare Sawa (Midfielder; Japan)
Dynamic attacking MF scored 7 goals in one game at Asian Cup
Mercy Akhude (Midfielder; Nigeria)
Nicknamed "Marvelous," she is the Super Falcons leading
Charmaine Hooper (Midfielder; Canada)
Tremendous attacker, she was MVP of the USISLW-League in '98
Bettina Weigmann (Midfielder; Germany)
Slashing dribbler is best of Germany's slew of talented attackers
Antonella Carta (Midfielder; Italy)
Arguably one of the world's best two-way centre midfielders
Inna Grigorieva (Midfielder; Russia)
Highly skilful captain is a brilliant creator and scorer
Laurie Hill (Midfielder; Mexico)
Former UC Santa Barbara star now dominates MF for Mexico
Vivan Mensah (Forward; Ghana)
Mother of one, her scoring led Black Queens to first WWC berth
Julie Murray (Forward; Australia)
The Matildas captain in '95 and best pure goal scorer
Sue Smith (Forward; England)
England's top attacker leads tremendous growth of game in UK

READ SEAN DOUGLAS EVERY WEEK
EXCLUSIVELY in Inside Soccer, AUSTRALIA'S
BEST READ SOCCER PUBLICATION
And starting next week ... BUGSY MALONEY,
the Marconi skipper's new weekly column.

Macarthur District Soccer Football Association Inc.

Clubs Registration Directory

All new players require two passport photographs and proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Most clubs require players, coaches and managers. We provide soccer for boys, girls, men and ladies from Under 6s to Over 45s.

CLUB	REGISTRATION DATES	VENUE	CONTACT	CLUB	REGISTRATION DATES	VENUE	CONTACT
Appin United	Sat 6th, Sun 5th Sat 13th, Sun 14th Feb	AIS Oval Showground Rd	Lyn Hudson 02 4631 1291	Eschol Park	Thur 4 Feb 6-9pm Sat 6 Feb 10am-2pm Sun 7 Feb 10am-2pm	Eschol Park Sports Complex Eaglevale Drive	Sharon Randall 02 9824 8494 Steve Leshone 02 9824 7383
Bradbury Ambarvale	Sat 6th Sun 14th Feb (new registrations) 10am-2pm	Ambarvale Sports Complex Jiniwin Place Ambarvale	Michelle Adamson 02 4620 4881 Karyn Hayes 02 4626 7065	(enter from Gould Road roundabout)			
Burrangong District	Sat 6th February 10am-2pm	The Oaks Public School Oakdale Public School	Sue Berger 02 4657 1517	Fields United	Saturdays 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb & 6 March 10am-4pm	Blinman Oval Harrow Road Glenfield	Mary 02 9605 7425
Camden Tigers	Thur 4th Feb 6-9pm	Ron Dine Reserve Cowper Drive, Camden	Cehryl Wright 02 4655 2336	Gunners United	Saturdays 6, 13, 20 Feb 10am-2pm	Bensley Road Soccer Complex Macquarie Fields	Terry 02 9618 5731 Steve 02 9618 2810
Camden Falcons	Sat 6th Feb 9am-1pm	Apex Plaza Camden	Margaret Bell 02 4655 8149 Trevor Christie 02 4655 1568	Ingleburn RSL	Sat 6 & 13 Feb 9am-2pm	Ingleburn Public School Oxford Road Ingleburn	Bev Ricketts 02 9618 5647 John Perrin 02 9605 2082
Campbelltown Cobras	Sat 30th Jan, Sun 31st Jan 10am-2pm	Kingsgrove Sports, Chamberlain St Campbelltown	Kevin Dillon 02 4627 2626	Leppington Lions	Sundays 7, 14 Feb 12pm-3pm	ISTRA Club Cnr Camden Valley Way & Cowpasture Rd, Leppington	Peter 02 9606 5859
Campbelltown Collegians	Sun 7th Feb, Sun 21st Feb 11am-3pm	Rosemeadow Reserve Dickens Road Rosemeadow	Kevin Warren 02 4627 0824 Sue Ricketts 02 4628 8874	Minto District	Saturday 6 Feb 10am-1pm	Sarah Redfern cnr Pembroke Rd & Durham St Minto	Lyn McKnight 02 9603 4979 Gordon Shaw 02 9605 5918
Campbelltown PCYC	Sun 7th, Sun 14th, Sun 21st Feb 10am-4pm	Riley Park Riverside Drive Airds	Christine Harrison 02 4625 2325	Narellan Rangers	Sat 6 Feb, Sun 7 Feb Sat 13 Feb 3-7pm	Nott Oval Richardson Rd Narellan	Mario Cerruto 02 4646 1248
Campbelltown Southern Districts	Mondays 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb Wednesdays 9, 16, 23 Feb 7pm-9pm	C'town Indoor Soccer Centre Airds Road Leumeah	John Clayton 02 4626 2062 02 4626 1700	Ruse	Sat 6 Feb 2-5pm	Coronation Oval, Minto	Susan Delaney 02 9820 3056 0418 633 916
Campbelltown Uniting Church (photos will be taken by the club) Seniors Tues 2, 9 Feb	Saturdays 6, 13 Feb 9am-3pm	Uniting Church Allman Street Campbelltown Lynwood Park	Chris Smith 02 4625 7030 Helen Rutherford 02 4625 4650	St Marys Eaglevale	Sat 6 Feb 11am-2pm	St Marys Primary School cnr Emerald Dr & Aquamarine Dr, Eaglevale	Janelle Hains 02 4626 1405
				Tahmoor	Sun 7 Feb 10am-2pm	Tahmoor Oval Thirlmere Way Tahmoor	Veronica Keast 02 4684 1640

Eclipse do the double

By Janene Mar

Canberra Eclipse stretched its lead to three points at the top of the women's soccer Summer Series with two single-goal wins this weekend over the SASI Pirates.

The second-placed NSW Sapphires slipped up today, managing just a one-all draw against bottom-placed Northern NSW Horizons despite

Northern having two players being sent from the field.

In Canberra on Sunday, the two sides had their chances but Pirates goalkeeper Tracey Wheeler had a much greater workload, repelling the home side's attack as the visitors had difficulty penetrating.

Angela Iannotta broke the deadlock in the 79th minute with a cracking drive from an acute angle

on the right.

On Saturday, Lisa Casagrande scored in Canberra's 1-0 win over SASI.

In Newcastle, Northern took the lead three minutes into play when Shelley Youman scored.

But in the second half, Alison Formen and Joanne Powell received their second yellow cards, reducing the side to nine players with 22 minutes remaining.

Five minutes later Kelly Golebiowski equalised for the Sapphires with a classy control and finish.

NSW peppered the goal but a gutsy effort by Northern gave it a share of the points.

A depleted Northern Horizon equalised for a 2-2 score-line on Sunday with just nine minutes remaining, but NSW Sapphires scored three late goals for a valuable 5-2 victory.

Asian detour for Aussies

LEADING Asian soccer officials have urged FIFA president Sepp Blatter to reconsider Asia's allocation of only four guaranteed spots at the 2002 World Cup finals.

With Japan and South Korea co-hosting the tournament, only two other Asian countries have been guaranteed a

birth in the finals.

A fifth could compete if they qualified via a play-off.

Blatter, senior FIFA vice-president Julio Grondona and general secretary Michael Zen-Ruffinen met four Asian executive committee members, including FIFA vice-president

Chung Mong Joon of South Korea and two senior Asian Football Confederation officials.

Later FIFA said in a statement: "The FIFA president listened very carefully to all the arguments raised in support of their request for a fair and equitable allocation, taking into consideration the unique situation of Korea and Japan co-hosting the World Cup in 2002."

The issue will be discussed at the next FIFA Executive Committee meeting on March 11-12.

The draw for the quali-

fying competition for the 2002 finals will be made in December.

The current allocation for the 2002 finals sees Europe with 15 of the 32 places, Africa five, CONCACAF three, South America four and Asia four. The remaining place will be decided after a play-off.

And it seems that both the AFC and OFC will support a bid for the Oceania winner to be included in the Asian qualification series.

ASF Chairman Basil Scarsella favours the Asian route.

Santrac: I'm glad to be back

By Alan Clark

ADELAIDE Sharks re-hired last season's coach Adrian Santrac after Manfred Schaefer's period in charge came to an abrupt end on the weekend.

Schaefer's last game in charge was the narrow 0-1 loss to Champions South Melbourne in the Australia Day game at Bob Jane, when the neutral observer would have awarded the game to Sharks.

Speaking about how he came to hold the job again, Santrac told *Inside Soccer*: "I had a phone call on Friday."

"I was asked if I was available and on Saturday they made the decision."

"I found out about three o'clock yesterday (Saturday) that it was happening, took training (that) night."

"It's all happened very quickly. "It's been a busy weekend!"

How did he feel, returning to the club he had just so recently left?

"I didn't have to think about it. I've been missing coaching."

"If another opportunity had come up (elsewhere), I would have taken it."

"It's what I enjoy doing."

When asked if a Finals berth was still a possibility for the Sharks, and what would be the goals he set, Santrac said: "We have eleven games left."

"We will literally take it one game at a time."

"Mathematically we can (qualify for the Finals), and practically we can do it."

"Rather than put (the players) under enormous pressure, all we want to focus on is game by game."

"We've got a lot of improving to do, a lot of tightening up."

"If we play to our capabilities we can be in the Finals, but we're not going to consciously target that."

Happy with World Youth Facilities

By Eniwoke Ibagere

A FIFA delegation was reported today to be satisfied with facilities in Lagos as it began a final inspection to decide if Nigeria should host the World Youth Cup soccer tournament.

Another group from the ruling body's Zurich headquarters had described some hotels earmarked for the event as "poor". But organisers of Nigerian '99 said they were confident Africa's most populous nation would get the go-ahead from the team led by CONCACAF president Jack Warner to host the tournament, scheduled for April 3-24.

Emiko Bake, Nigerian '99 protocol officer, said: "We're sure we'll get the hosting. Only minor errors are left and they won't take long to put right."

BALLS TO CARLTON

CARLTON have announced that their End of Season Ball will be held at the Grand Hyatt on June 4. The Black Tie function will feature The Bob Valentine Big Band. Tickets are \$125.

ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 17

South winning streak continues

By Alan Clark

SOUTH Melbourne continued a six game winning streak after a John Anastasiadis goal in the 74th minute was enough to beat a determined Adelaide Sharks in the Australia Day game at Bob Jane Stadium.

Anastasiadis' goal was his third after starting in consecutive games, when for the period immediately prior he has been introduced as a late substitute.

"He was waiting for an opportunity to play - he's got it and he's done well. He's got himself a position in the starting eleven for now and if he keeps scoring goals he'll keep playing," said South coach Ange Postecoglou.

Anastasiadis had sprinted to get into the right position to deflect home a driven cross from Vaughan Coveny, after Coveny had started the move deep in his own half, making ground up the right wing before exchanging a pass with

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (J Anastasiadis)
ADELAIDE SHARKS 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: John Anastasiadis SMEL**

Michael Curcija, and regaining possession near the edge of the penalty area.

The goal seemed overdue for the impatient amongst the home support who by then were braying their displeasure at the sterile nature of the match, as both sides' midfields strove for supremacy without either gaining a sustained period of dominance.

"That's probably what makes this club so successful," said Postecoglou. "Maybe at other clubs they'd understand that we've had two games in three days, that we're on top, and that we can afford to drop a game here or there."

"But our supporters set our standards high and a lot of them will probably go home and not be happy with the three points because we didn't

play well."

Whereas in the match-up between the two sides at the Hindmarsh earlier in the season Adelaide Sharks were the better side by a considerable margin, and only South Melbourne goalkeeper Michael Petkovic prevented a rout, eventually earning a 1-1 draw for his side - this time neither keeper was much involved.

"It was a struggle today. (Sharks) definitely played well, but I bet they didn't play that well against Canberra, they probably haven't played that well all year. We face that week in week out, that's why we're where we are - it's not by accident," said Postecoglou.

"You can see why one team is on top because of the way they finished that goal," said Sharks' coach

Manfred Schaefer who believed referee David Dwight could have awarded an early penalty for a foul on busy Sharks' striker Derek Poimer.

Poimer had wriggled his way into the area before a challenge sent him sprawling and allowed the ball to go out of play.

Dwight awarded the goal-kick without penalising a dive.

Branko Milosevic had a fifth minute opportunity which was deflected over by Petkovic. Alex Castro had a sixteenth minute effort, and John Gibson shot narrowly over after 23 minutes.

Second half Sharks' forays similarly were unproductive despite the best endeavours of clever combination work between Poimer and Milosevic.

With both sides growing in confidence, and maybe even finding the soreness in over-worked muscles being eased by action, the game opened up in the last quarter, but the decisive action was to South Melbourne's benefit.

Brisbane hang on

BRISBANE Strikers' mid-season form resurgence received a further boost with a torrid 2-1 win over Sydney Olympic in the NSL match at Suncorp Stadium on Tuesday.

Despite missing key defender Steve Laybutt and midfield regulars Sean Cranney and Chay Hews, the Strikers' victory enabled them to leapfrog two places to seventh position on the Ericsson Cup table.

The Strikers are well-placed to achieve coach John Kosmina's goal of 42 points for the season to make the play-offs.

Brisbane survived a torrid first half in which Olympic looked far superior but surprisingly the visitors went to the break trailing 1-0.

Strikers midfielder Jeromy Harris broke the deadlock diving low to curl a header off a Kasey Wehrman corner over the head of Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos.

The Sydney players had only themselves to blame for trailing at the break after striker Pablo Cardozo missed an open goal after just four minutes.

Socceroo Brett Emerton fired in a

cross to Cardozo but somehow his shot was saved brilliantly by keeper Clint Bolton down low to his right.

Strikers shook off their first half blues to dominate for lengthy periods after halftime and were finally rewarded with their second goal in the 79th minute.

Substitute Reece Tollenare who came on for youngster Wayne Srhoj, rifled home the Strikers' second from close range after receiving a perfect cutback on the left from Nick Meredith.

However, the Strikers' two goal buffer lasted less than a minute when Cardozo made up for his early blunder, snapping a powerful shot from close range to give the visitors some chance to share the points.

Unlike previous matches in which the Strikers wilted under pressure, this time the homeside hung on to clinch a valuable three points and a sniff at a top six berth later in the season.

**BRISBANE 2 (Harris, Tollenare)
SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Cardozo)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Man of the Match: Clint Bolton
BRIS**

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 2

Saturday 6 February

Altona Magic v Altona East (7pm Paisley Park)

South Dandenong v Green Gully Cavaliers (6pm Andrews Reserve)

Sunday 7 February

Springvale White Eagles v Port Melbourne (6pm Perry Road)

Sunshine Georgies v Preston Lions (6pm Chaplin Reserve)

St Albans v Bentleigh Greens (6pm Churchill Reserve)

Melbourne Raiders v Fawkner (6pm Partridge Reserve)

Read David Arnold's VPL Match of the Round report exclusively in *Inside Soccer*

Match details believed to be correct at time of going to press from information supplied. Please check with VSF for late changes.

Cunico fires Spirit into Oz Day Glory

MISSING seven of its starting line-up, Northern Spirit notched up a third win in 12 days thanks to a blistering strike from Michael Cunico against Perth Glory at North Sydney Oval on Australia Day.

The 74th minute strike off Cunico's right foot came 25 metres out from the Perth goal and was greeted by fireworks.

Spirit was aided by the send-off of Perth captain Gareth Naven in the 25th minute after a crude challenge from behind on Gabriel Mendez.

While Northern Spirit remained goalless until half-way through the second half, it wasn't through lack of trying.

Coach Graham Arnold was worried how his team would recover from the 3-2 game against Sydney Olympic two days before.

"We had seven first-team players and Perth

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Cunico 74)
PERTH GLORY 0
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Paul Henderson SPRT

was at full strength," he said.

"We had four or five 18-year-olds on the pitch and players out of position so I was very happy with the result."

But Arnold admitted it was tougher for Perth which had now won just once from eight games and crashed to a third straight loss.

"They must have been knackered, they played in 38 degree heat against Adelaide City on Sunday then flew here yesterday," he added.

Goal-scorer Cunico said he felt for the Glory.

"They played their hearts out just like we did against Olympic," Cunico said. Perth was lucky not to be one goal down in the 68th minute when

keeper Danny Milosevic saved a poorly taken Paul Bilokapic penalty given after a foul on Paul Watkins. The penalty award was dubious and perhaps justice was done.

Milosevic was one of five Glory players and seven in the match to receive a yellow card.

But the game itself, unlike the pyrotechnics which lit the sky as part of the Australia Day celebrations afterwards, never really lit any fuses.

In truth both sides more than matched each other.

Perth seemed content to defend in depth with John Markovski playing the lone ranger role up front, occasionally supported by Con Boutsianis who had a quiet match.

Both players were re-

cently dropped from the starting line up by coach Bernd Stang and were looking for big showings.

That they didn't come would have worried Stang although Markovski showed some promise but without any great deal of support from the midfield his was always going to be a tough task.

Spirit's inspiration Robbie Slater roamed the field in search of the space he wanted, a space which was rarely given when he was in a right flank spot and up against Perth's classy defender Robert Trajkovski.

Slater battled hard and ran his socks off in the heat but against a stout defence he often resorted to drifting back into midfield.

Prior to the main game 'Scotland' beat 'England' keeping alive the Anglo-Celtic flavour of nearby celebrations in North Sydney.

Jesus saves the Cosmos

IT WAS A headline writer's dream and when former Blacktown City midfielder Ivo de Jesus lined up for his first starting role with the Canberra Cosmos the signs were there.

And although the Cosmos beat Newcastle 3-0 for their first NSL win of the season coach Tommy Sermanni refused to celebrate the upset victory.

"The job is no easier, we have to turn around and do it all over again next week," he said.

"It's no good celebrating a win then going back to our old habits against Adelaide City in our next game."

Sermanni who is already being regarded as a saviour in Canberra after stopping a run of 13 losses with two draws and now this win, said he was especially pleased with the performance of youthful trialist Ivo de Jesus.

"Ivo played very well tonight, the quality of his passing and distribution was generally very good, he is a quality player who

lacks match fitness," Sermanni said.

Newcastle goalkeeper Bob Catlin was called into the action early, palming a cunning lob from Leo Langone onto the crossbar.

There was no such let-off in the 13th minute.

Doug Marcina did the hard work, taking on and beating Glenn Sprod and slipping the ball to Langone who set up Peter Buljan for the Cosmos leading scorer to net his seventh goal of the season.

Six minutes later, the home side went into a 2-nil lead for the first time this season.

This time, Buljan played the supporting role, finding Langone who punished Catlin for standing too far off his line.

Sangchul Yoon gave the visitors some cause for hope with a powerful

run which left Danny Burt in his wake, but goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic spread himself well and blocked the shot.

The Cosmos began the second half eager to wrap up the match.

Buljan failed to control a pass from Langone with the goal looming, then it was Buljan this time forcing an outstanding one-handed save from the veteran Newcastle goalkeeper.

With two minutes left the Cosmos sealed the game when a powerful run from defender Marcina enabled him to get on the end of a pass from Langone and score Canberra's third.

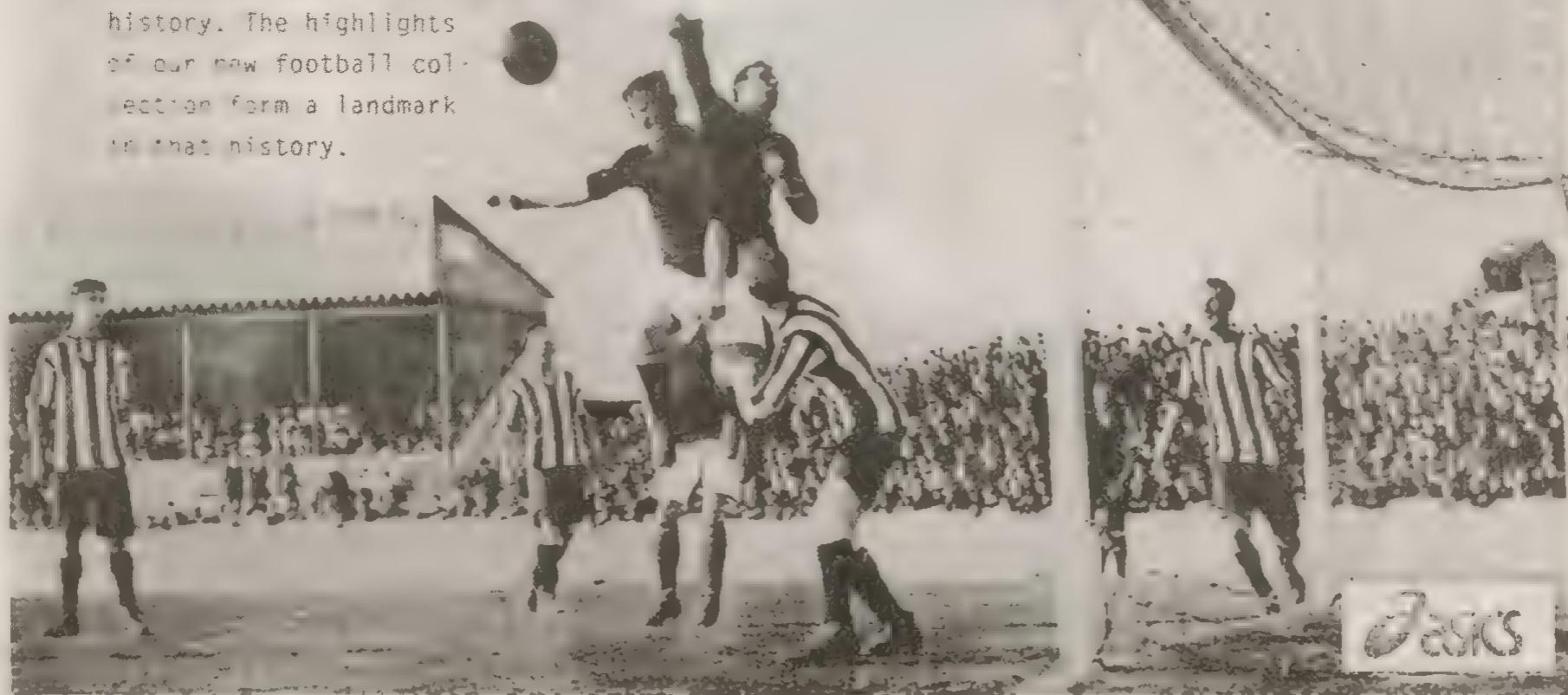
Newcastle coach Lee Sterry said his team had an appalling record away from home - "and after this performance you can see why," he said.

CANBERRA COSMOS 3 (Buljan 12, Langone 18, Marcina 87)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Man of the Match: Ivo de Jesus CANB

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City back to smash Carlton

By Sam Lienert

A second half substitution from Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic set up an important 3-0 win for his side over Carlton at Hindmarsh Stadium on Tuesday night.

The victory enabled the Zebras to climb from fifth spot to third on the NSL ladder, swapping positions with Carlton.

The match looked headed for a 0-0 draw until substitute Bradley Armour scored the first goal in the 73rd minute, just seven minutes after he entered the game.

The Blues defence had looked well in control until that point, with Marcus Stergiopoulos, Sean Douglas and David



Mori: set up Armour for the first

Cervinski stifling the many City attacking moves in the first half and allowing few threatening shots on goal.

But the headed goal from Armour at the left post, set up by a chipped cross from the right side of the box by striker

Damien Mori, opened up the match.

Carlton had looked content to allow the home side to do most of the attacking before the half but with the 1-0 deficit, it was forced to become more offensive in an effort to level

the scores. hot temperatures on Sunday before beating Carlton on Australia Day was superb.

"When they play in 36 degrees and the sun is beating on top of you and then to play two games in 48 hours, I am giving them the next two days off," Matic said.

He said he had expected Carlton to play defensively but Armour had the pace and fitness to create chances.

"Brad is a very lively player. I told him if you're one-on-one you don't have to look for support, take a risk, people who don't take risks don't get anywhere," Matic said.

"You have to be prepared to outplay opposition on their own terms, we had a lot more chances, we got a break and after that we never looked back."

Matic was full of praise for his team and said their commitment in defeating Perth away in

ADELAIDE CITY 3 (Armour 2, Mori)
CARLTON 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Damien Mori ADL

Drab draw at Brandon Park

By Simon Oakes

WOLLONGONG 0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Brandon Park
Man of the Match: Robbie Stanton WOLL

NSL strugglers Wollongong Wolves and Melbourne Knights produced an uninspiring 0-0 draw in Tuesday's clash at Brandon Park in front of another poor crowd.

In a low standard game, Wollongong wasted a string of chances while the Knights had only two shots on goal.

The Wolves had 13 corners to the Knights' one with the visitors' only corner coming in injury time.

But all the possession and pressure counted for nothing for the Wolves, again guilty of dreadful finishing.

Last season, Wollongong had one of the best scoring records in the league and made the play-offs but this campaign has not found a reliable finisher.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was animated on the sideline for most of the match, often throwing his hands to his head as chance after chance went begging.

Both teams are out of finals contention and from the opening minutes the Knights had a defensive outlook and appeared content to force a draw.

The match was delayed 12 minutes with the Knights' late arrival at Brandon Park but from the kick-off were under pressure.

Wollongong frittered numerous chances in the first half beginning with striker Michael Brooks heading wide from a Scott Chipperfield corner in the 10th minute.

On 23 minutes, Wolves midfielder Noel Spencer had the goal at his mercy but shot over the bar from 20 metres when Knights goalkeeper Joe Didulica on the ground after saving at the feet of Brooks.

Spencer went closest to scoring, lashing a 20-metre shot against the post after 40 minutes.

Wollongong continued to pile on the pressure without reward in the second half with midfielder Anthony Surjan wasting the best chance, heading wide from just six metres after a fine cross by Chipperfield.

The Knights had just two chances, their best coming in injury time, when Ivan Kutlesovski forced Wolves keeper Les Pogliacomi to save with his feet.

Michael Brooks continues to disappoint fans at Brandon Park and, after getting a rare starting opportunity, was dragged early in the second half.

The future of the former Adelaide City player is now in doubt and despite the fact that he has more than a year to go under his current contract it is known that the NSW regional club would be keen to let him go.

Awaritefe off in controversial Sydney derby

By Anthony Raineri

SYDNEY United overpowered a 10-man Marconi 3-2 on Tuesday with a late penalty in a fiercely contested and bad tempered NSL derby.

The main talking point was the controversial dismissal of veteran Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe for a head butt on United defender Joe Vrkic just before half-time.

"If that was a head butt, then I'm an astronaut," Awaritefe said. "Nothing happened."

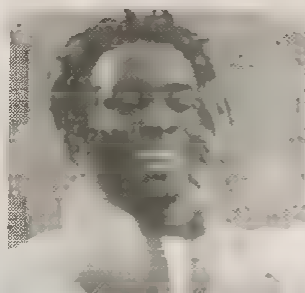
"There was nothing there. I don't know what he (the referee) sent me off for. If there was a head butt there would have been a cut on his (Vrkic's) face or swelling, but there was nothing."

Vrkic maintained he was head-butted.

"We were talking and then he walked in front of me with his back to me and swung his head back."

Referee Simon Micallef did not see the incident and relied on the evidence of his assistant John Bowdler.

The game began controversially when Marconi captain



Brad Maloney had what seemed like a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down in the fourth minute.

Late in the game, United received a penalty from a similar type of incident which was converted by young striker Mile Sterjovski for the match winner.

Marconi midfielder Chad Gibson exploited indecision in United's defence to poke in the opening goal after nine minutes.

Rookie United striker Joel Griffiths equalised with a similar opportunistic goal in the 41st minute.

Despite beginning the second half a man down, Marconi continued to take the game to United and

snatched the lead again through Gibson.

Sterjovski equalised for the home side with a stunning 35 metre drive.

The Stallions looked like holding on for a heroic draw until debutant defender Michael Galluzzo brought down United's Walter Ardone with seven minutes to go.

United coach David Mitchell said he was relieved to capture the three points because his team had produced its worst home performance of the season.

"I was happy with nobody in my team," he said. "Marconi played well and deserved more."

Mitchell defended his team's penalty but conceded that Marconi had legitimate claims for a penalty early in the game.

"From my view, it could have been a penalty," Mitchell said.

"If it was awarded I would not have jumped up and down."

Marconi coach Frank Farina, while disappointed with a couple of the refereeing decisions, preferred to credit his team.

"I was very happy with the way the boys played," he said.

"I felt it was the match that got away because we were still looking dangerous even with 10 men."

SYDNEY UNITED 3 (Sterjovski 2, Griffiths)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2 (Gibson 2)
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: Chad Gibson MARC

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER

Ericsson Cup Round 19: 05-08 February
Friday 05 February

Newcastle Breakers v Sydney Olympic
Breakers Stadium 7.30pm

Saturday 06 February

Brisbane Strikers v Northern Spirit
Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm

Gippsland Falcons v Carlton
Mobil Park 7.00pm

Sunday 07 February

South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights
Bob Jane Stadium 6.00pm

Sydney United v Adelaide City
Edensor Park 5.00pm

Adelaide Sharks v Perth Glory
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Monday 08 February

Canberra Cosmos v Wollongong Wolves
Bruce Stadium 7.30pm

Bye: Marconi Fairfield

SOCCER AUSTRALIA SCORES UPDATE SERVICE
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NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

United keeps up pressure

By Steven Smith

AN ecstatic Sydney United coach David Mitchell praised his players for a gutsy 2-1 win over Northern Spirit at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

With the game deadlocked at one apiece, young United striker Joel Griffiths came through four minutes from time to give United its fifth win in a row, cementing its second place on the ladder. Spirit had the better possession in the first half but gave away a series of scoring opportunities, while United made the most of any goal attempts.

Jacob Burns put the visitors one up with a

close range goal in the 48th minute off a corner by substitute Ante Moric.

But Kresimir Marusic equalised in the 69th minute with a stunning 25m left foot blast.

Mitchell, United's player coach said he was happy his side had lifted from its disappointing game against Marconi on Tuesday which he described as their worst football performance of the season.

"It was a terrific win - all credit to the boys because it was a hard game.

"They're at home and

they threw everything at us and there was tremendous pressure.

"I can't praise them enough. I'm ecstatic."

Northern Spirit, which had not lost in six games, was left to rue its missed chances, two of which went begging in the first half. Daniel Watkins, who played up front instead of Olyroo Clayton Zane, had a header in the 17th minute saved by the cross bar.

He then mis-kicked off a rebounded goal attempt 20 minutes later in front of a clear goal.

Spirit also came close in the 64th minute when Jack Subczyk, who had his first start in the Ericsson Cup, hit the right hand post with a powerful diagonal strike.

A Robbie Slater goal which would have levelled the match found the net but he was called offside.

United also had its opportunities but Steve Berry's close range shot was pushed over the bar by Spirit keeper Paul Henderson and Griffith's sliding attempt also went wide.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Moric)
SYDNEY UNITED 2 (Burns, Griffiths)
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Kresimir Marusic SPRT

PABLO Cardozo, known as Elvis, was the hero of Sydney Olympic's 5-0 romp over cross town rivals Marconi in Sunday's NSL match at Belmore.

Cardozo, the competition's leading goal scorer, took his tally for the season to 16 with two more but selflessly gave away an opportunity for a hat-trick, while having a hand in all of Olympic's goals as Marconi crashed to its fifth straight loss.

But the deficit could have been more if it was not for the goalkeeping of Brett Hughes as Marconi, with seven regulars out and a side lacking height and experience, rarely troubled Olympic - the visitor's first opportunity being almost an own goal in their favour.

With Adrian Cervinski having got Olympic off the mark when he headed down a goal in the 13th minute, it took a leaping save from keeper George Bouhoutsos' fingertips to stop an embarrassing equaliser.

But after being held to just 1-0 for 65 minutes, Cardozo sparked a late second half goal rush when he netted his first after substitute Norman Tome's header hit the woodwork and Brett Emerton rebound shot was saved by Hughes.

Elvis on song in Marconi thrashing

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 5 (Cardozo 2, Augerinos, A Cervinski, Tome)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0
Venue: Belmore Sportsground
Man of the Match: Scott Thomas SOLY

Twelve minutes later, Tome took two touches to double after a cross from Cardozo, who then made it 4-0 in the 82nd minute with a diving left hook strike at the right hand post for his ninth goal in six matches.

Cardozo then selflessly gave up an opportunity for a hat-trick a minute later, passing instead to substitute Elias Augerinos to score, appropriately in his 150th NSL game.

Olympic coach Branko Culina was pleased with his team's performance but said they'd played better against Northern Spirit last week.

It was difficult to assess today because as soon as we scored the first goal

Marconi died.

Culina had nothing but praise for his star striker.

"He's been playing exceptionally well all year it's not just the goals it's the way he chases the goal," Culina said.

"Most strikers would have gone for that last goal, that was very unselfish of him and that's why we rate him very highly.

"It took us that second goal to get a killer instinct that we've lacked."

Marconi coach Frank Farina said his young team had done well in the circumstances.

"I didn't think we were out of the game too much until the second goal," he said. "But it was like a shooting gallery towards the end."

Moreira lands Lady Luck for the blues

By Alan Clark

CARLTON can thank an unsighted assistant referee who failed to notice that the ball had gone over the goal-line for a Sharks' goal-kick.

Instead it became a Carlton throw, leading to Alex Moreira's 81st minute equaliser at 2-2 and a point earned at Optus Oval against the unfortunate Sharks on Sunday.

The ball had gone well over the goal-line, but the assistant - facing into the sun on the far-side of the pitch - not only gave no flag, but seemed to indicate to referee Jeremy Blaney that the ball had remained in play.

A subsequent clearance then came off a Carlton player before crossing the touch-line, but Marcus Stergiopoulos was awarded the throw.

The throw was played in to Simon Colosimo - who had come on for captain Andrew Marth in a surprise half-time change - before being played to Marco Bresciano.

Bresciano then set up Moreira who blasted the ball past the hapless David Miller.

Moreira's post-goal celebrations irked referee Blaney sufficiently for the Brazilian to earn a yellow card.

Carlton had been a well-

CARLTON 2 (Moreira 2)
ADELAIDE SHARKS 2 (J Gibson, Poimer)
Venue: Optus Oval
Man of the Match: Corey Artone ADSh

beaten team at the half as Adelaide Sharks raced to a deserved two-goal lead.

As early as the fifth minute, Sharks made their intentions known.

Richie Alagich played a diagonal ball which cut out Sean Douglas and ran neatly for Corey Artone.

Artone was pushed wide by the experienced Dean Anastasiadis returning to the Carlton line-up after several weeks absence.

But it was by probing this right wing channel that the Sharks were to make their most convincing attacking movements.

Just after the quarter-hour, Artone judged a similarly played ball better than Stergiopoulos, played an early ball to Derek Poimer who in turn laid it off to John Gibson.

Gibson's shot was low and struck too hard for Anastasiadis.

Sharks went two up in the 35th minute.

Artone was again to play a role of significance, this time making a storming run up the

right before letting loose a shot which cannoned off the far post and rebounded for Poimer.

Poimer's shot was headed for the inside of the post but Con Anthopoulos seemed to have it covered on the line, only to make a hash of the clearance, hitting the ball into the net rather than sending it clear.

Poimer could have extended the lead shortly after when he wriggled clear and faced only Anastasiadis, but this time it was Anastasiadis who won the duel.

Whatever Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said to his charges at the break resulted in Carlton showing more vigour in the second half.

Perhaps it was the introduction of Colosimo which helped alter the outcome, but whatever it was, Carlton's forwards and midfielders sloughed off their first-half lethargy, and started to move the Sharks' markers around the field.

Colosimo was integral in Carlton's first.

Paul Souris had brought him down just outside the penalty area and wide on the right after Sharks' defenders dallied when in possession allowing Colosimo to intervene.

Lubo Lapsansky's free-kick was perfectly flighted for Moreira's far-post header onto the underside of the bar and over the line.

Sharks' coach Adrian Santrac said after the game "It's a big lesson for us - we've got a long way to go.

"We had three clear chances to have cleared the ball before we gave away the free-kick."

Although Sharks still mounted attacks, they became fewer and less convincing.

Two defenders were introduced to replace two attacking midfielders.

Carlton revelled in the space that they were conceded.

Wave after wave of attack was launched, then repelled until what seemed the most innocuous attack of all which should have petered out with the award of a Sharks' goal-kick.

The award was never made and the equaliser was a harsh blow as a result.

David Cervinski could in fact have brought all points home in stoppage time after Stergiopoulos' cross from the



Carlton's Simon Colosimo: substituted for Andrew Marth

left fell for the pony-tailed defender making a foray forward, but Cervinski's attempt at the shot inside the six-yard box failed to connect with the ball with the defence beaten.

Carlton coach Krncevic

said: "It was a good comeback. They showed a bit of character.

"But I'm not happy because it was good opportunity to take three points today."

Hero Bobby saves Breakers

By Tracey Searle

Newcastle Breakers continued their role as Perth's bogey team after today extending the early season National Soccer League trail-blazers losing streak to four with a 1-0 home defeat.

The Breakers were the first team to beat Glory this season, ending an eight game winning run that started a downward slide for Perth.

But despite Perth having only won one game since - against Carlton in round 13 - while losing five and drawing two, the 11th placed Breakers went into the game as underdogs against a side still five places above them on the competition ladder.

But their resilient defence led by Shane Pryce and goalkeeper Bob Catlin fought off a constant barrage of attack from Glory

**PERTH GLORY 0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Buonavoglia)
Venue: Perth Oval
Man of the Match: Bobby Catlin NEWC**

who were desperate to turn around an increasing run of poor form.

It was another frustrating performance from Perth, who have developed a reputation of mounting constant attacks without being able to produce the resulting goal.

The Glory attack pressured Newcastle's defence but failed to make a dent on the scoresheet.

The more the home side attacked, the more frustrating things became for them and the 10,000 strong Perth Oval crowd.

The disheartening blow came when the Breakers surged forward with one of their rare attacking moves in the early stages of the first half, producing a sur-

prise 16th minute goal by diminutive John Buonavoglia.

The goal came after Newcastle's Robert Shannon took a free kick after Glory's Gianfranco Circati was penalised for an illegal challenge.

The strike from Shannon was a poor one but it rebounded off Glory's defensive wall and into the path of Buonavoglia, who slotted the ball home to give the Breakers a 1-0 lead.

Perth have now gone into a slide after having set a blistering pace in the first half of the season.

They hold onto a Top Six spot on goal difference and are in real danger of not making this season's play offs.



Horsley double rocks South Melbourne

By Steven Smith

SKIPPER Matt Horsley grabbed his second goal five minutes from fulltime to earn Wollongong Wolves a deserved 2-1 victory over national soccer league leader South Melbourne at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Horsley put Wollongong ahead in the 54th minute, but ex-Wolves striker Vaughan Coveny equalised with a deflected shot in the 75th minute.

Coveny then hit the post with a header before Horsley

bobbed up to score with a clinical shot from eight metres.

The Wolves fully deserved what was only their fifth victory of a disappointing season.

"It's not often that I score two," an elated Horsley said afterwards.

"The boys really gave their all tonight, if we'd had had some luck in recent games we could be right near the play-off teams, but this was a sweet win."

Wolves' coach Nick Theodorakopoulos described the victory as outstanding.

Referee Greg Levertton booked eight players in an occasionally spiteful game with South defender Nick Orlic sent off in the 90th minute for a second yellow card offence.

Orlic made a late challenge on Wolves' keeper Les Pogliacomini after being booked in the first half for a bad tackle on Saso Petrovski.

Petrovski was carried from the field and had to be replaced due to an ankle injury.

Orlic was heckled throughout the game by a partisan crowd of over 3,800.

The Wolves created a number of chances in the first half, but lacked a cutting edge.

They finally got some reward in the 54th minute, when a corner from midfielder Antony Surjan was flicked on by Scott Chipperfield to Horsley who scored from six metres.

Just minutes later Michael Brooks had a great chance to double Wollongong's lead, but with the goalkeeper to beat he elected to pass rather than shoot and a chance went begging.

Wollongong continued to press and were stunned by

Coveny's equaliser against the run of play.

The move began just inside Wollongong's half when John Anastasiadis picked up a loose pass and drew three defenders on the edge of the Wollongong penalty box.

He released Coveny whose shot struck Wolves defender George Souris and deflected into the net.

But despite the goal Wollongong pressed forward and fully deserved Horsley's late winner.

**WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (Horsley 2)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Coveny)
Venue: Brandon Park
Man of the Match: Matt Horsley WOLL**

Falcons red cards continue as Perinovic marches

GIPPSLAND Falcons were left to rue their ninth sending off in this season after Melbourne Knights clawed back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 in Sunday's NSL match.

Marko Perinovic, who scored the Falcons first goal in the 30th minute, was given his marching orders midway

through the second half and the match turned on his dismissal - a decision Gippsland coach Stuart Munro attributed to poor refereeing.

"The sending off turned the whole game - I'm not happy with the referees and I'm telling you that right now," Munro said.

"Every other week we get

somebody sent off for a very dubious decision.

"There was absolutely nothing in it. It turned the whole game."

With Sasha Becvinovski doubling the visitors' advantage nine minutes into the second half, the Knights appeared headed for defeat but striker Ivan Kelic equalised just four minutes before fulltime after a 72nd minute Alex Kiratzoglou goal.

"We conceded a silly goal in the first half and the second goal from another mistake by

the keeper," Knights coach Joe Biskic said.

"After the send-off we got back and I'm only pleased with the team's effort in the last 20 minutes."

Asked to comment on the sending off, which was Perinovic's second bookable offence after a harsh challenge on Knights' midfielder Michael Reda, Biskic said: "It was a referee's decision."

"It was a tackle from the back and the player's second bookable offence."

"I can't say more than that."

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 (Kiratzoglou, Kelic)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2 (Perinovic, Becvinovski)
Venue: Knights Park
Man of the Match: Ivan Kelic MELK**

**LIVE SOCCER
ON ABC
MATCH OF THE ROUND
COVERAGE**

Sydney United

v

Adelaide City

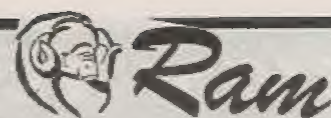
SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

5.00pm

ABC

SCOREBOARD

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RAM SPORTS

VICTORIAN STATE

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 1

Sunday 31 January

Fawkner Blues 4 St Albans 1
Ferrante H Karl
Simsek
Duze
Di Sauro

Bentleigh Greens 5 Altona Magic 0
Lenetis
J Nilo 2
Grella
Kalimeris

Altona East 2 Sunshine Georgies 1
Papadopoulos Stojilkovski
Bartol

Preston Lions 2 Springvale White Eagles 0
Spink
Smirnis

Port Melbourne Sharks 6 Westvale 1
Pappas A Goutzioulis

Caimakamis 2
Latinopoulos
Kakos
Tsaltas

Monday 1 February

Green Gully Cav v Melbourne Raiders (late kick off)
Bulleen Inter Kings v South Dandenong

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Port Melbourne	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Bentleigh Greens	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Fawkner Blues	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Preston Lions	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Altona East	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
South Dandenong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulleen Inter Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green Gully	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Melbourne Raiders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunshine Georgies	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Springvale	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
St Albans	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Westvale	1	0	0	1	1	6	0
Altona Magic	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

VICTORIAN PREMIER RESERVES: Round 1

Sunday 31 January

Fawkner Blues 1 St Albans 2
Bentleigh Greens 3 Altona Magic 0
Altona East 0 Sunshine Georgies 4
Preston Lions 4 Springvale White Eagles 0
Port Melbourne Sharks 0 Westvale 2

Monday 1 February

Green Gully Cav v Melbourne Raiders (late kick off)
Bulleen Inter Kings v South Dandenong

ANSETT CHALLENGE

Saturday 30 January

Canberra Eclipse 1 SASI Pirates 0
Casagrande 49

NSWIS Sapphires 5 Northern NSW Horizon 2
Cavanagh 42 Salisbury 12, 81
Thomas 68
Murray 83
Parker 87
Golebiowski 89

Sunday 31 January

Canberra Eclipse 1 SASI Pirates 0
Iannotta 79

Northern NSW Horizon 1 NSWIS Sapphires 1
Youman 3 Golebiowski 73

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Canberra Eclipse	12	7	2	3	21	22	23
SASI Pirates	10	4	2	4	17	10	14
NSWIS Sapphires	8	4	2	2	13	7	14
QAS Sting	10	3	2	5	14	20	11
Northern NSW Horizon	8	2	0	6	9	15	6

NAT. YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Div: R 17

Wollongong Wolves 5 NSWIS 0
Wolves Colts 5 Olympic Academy 1 (

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home					away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 South Melbourne	17	7	1	0	18	7	4	2	3	16	13
2 Sydney United	17	7	1	1	19	6	4	1	4	11	13
3 Adelaide City	17	7	2	1	21	5	3	0	4	6	9
4 Northern Spirit	17	5	2	2	11	6	4	0	4	9	12
5 Carlton	17	6	2	1	23	7	2	2	4	10	15
6 Perth Glory	17	5	1	3	15	9	3	2	3	15	11
7 Sydney Olympic	17	7	1	1	22	7	1	2	5	8	16
8 Brisbane Strikers	16	4	3	2	13	11	3	1	3	9	8
9 Marconi Fairfield	17	4	1	2	17	11	3	2	5	12	22
10 Newcastle Breakers	17	4	1	3	11	10	1	2	6	6	15
11 Wollongong City	17	3	4	2	17	11	2	1	5	8	19
12 Adelaide Sharks	17	4	3	1	18	10	2	1	6	8	18
13 Melbourne Knights	16	1	2	5	8	12	2	2	4	8	14
14 Gippsland Falcons	16	2	2	4	4	11	1	2	5	6	19
15 Canberra Cosmos	17	1	0	8	7	18	0	2	6	5	16

Marconi Fairfield Colts 1 AIS 1
Sydney Olympic 3 QAS 1
Newcastle Breakers 2 ACTAS 0
Postponed: Northern Spirit v Sydney United Colts
Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield
Northern Spirit Colts bye.

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 17:

Tuesday 26 January

South Melbourne 1 Adelaide Sharks 0

Scorer: J Anastasiadis

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

Crowd: 6,192

Referee: D Wright

Cautions: Castro, P Souris ADSh: Liparoti, Polak, Trimboli SMEL

SOUTH: M Petkovic, De Amicis, Orlic, Coveny, Trimboli, Curcija, Anastasiadis, Cuzzupe (Tsekini 60), Polak, Goutzioulis, Liparoti
SHARKS: Miller, Alagich (Tibaldi 84), Castro, Kuzmanovic, P Souris, Kokkinoplitis, Milosevic (Artone 78), Poimer, Duric (Porter 80), Pezos, J Gibson

Adelaide City 3 Carlton 0

Scorers: Hassell 73, 83, Mori 77

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Crowd: tba

Referee: E Lennie

Cautions: Kim ADLC, Atkinson CARL

CITY: J Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Costanzo, Hassell, Terminello, Sabljak (Armour 58), Kim
CARLTON: Cagalj, Anthopoulos (Pir 80), Stergiopoulos, Colosimo, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Moreira (Oulamaris 77), Lapsansky, D Cervinski, Markovac (Josifovski 60)

Northern Spirit 1 Perth Glory 0

Scorers: Cunico 73

Venue: North Sydney Oval

Crowd: 17,722

Referee: M Shield

Cautions: Circati, Despotovski, Milosevic, Miller, Deans PRTH; Bilokapic, Arnold

Red Card: Naven PRTH

SPIRIT: Henderson, Arnold, Moss, Bilokapic, Langdon, Watkins, Cunico, Mendez (Stubbs-Mills 83), Marusic (Bosnar 90), Slater, Zane
GLORY: Milosevic, Trajkovski (Strudwick 85), Miller, Hay, Circati, Deans, G Naven, M Garcia, J Markovski, Despotovski (T Halpin 78), Boutsianis

Brisbane Strikers 2 Sydney Olympic 1

Scorers: Harris 43, Tollenaere 79 BRIS; Cardozo 81 SOLY

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: 4,110

Referee: E Brazzale

Cautions: McLaren, Meredith BRIS; Gonzalez

SOLY

STRIKERS: Bolton, Gwynne, Zoricich, Wehrman, McLaren, Srhoj (Tollenaere 59), Harris (North 75), Meredith, D Hughes (Knipe 84), Davidson, Stefanutto

OLYMPIC: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekenis, Tome (A Cervinski 65), Culina, Cardozo, Emerton, Brennan (C Gonzalez 59), A Juric, Durakovic, Blagojevic

Sydney United 3 Marconi Fairfield 2

Scorers: Griffiths 41, Sterjovski 60, 84 SUTD; C

Gibson 9, 50

Venue: Edensor Park

Crowd: 6,498

Referee: S Micallef

Cautions: Maloney, Kim, Farah, Galluzzo MARC; Ardane SUTD

Red Card: Awaritefe MARC

UNITED: Crews, Barrett, Kupresak (Day 55),

Plesa, Vrkic, Santalab (Berry 72), Bennett, Ar-

done, Burns, Sterjovski, Griffiths (Townsend 58)

MARCONI: Aceski, C Gibson (McDonald 55),

Kim, Care, S Babic (Invincible 78), Maloney,

Farah, Tomasevich, Awaritefe, Galluzzo, Tra-

janovski

Canberra Cosmos 3 Newcastle Breakers 0

Scorers: Buljan 12, Langone 18, Marcina 87

Venue: Bruce Stadium

Crowd: 1,728

Referee: B Pannella

Cautions: Kelly CANB; McManus, Shannon

NEWC

COSMOS: Knezevic, T Popovich, Burt (Purdue

59), L Wilson, Marcina, Buljan (Gonzalez 69),

Langone, Miglietti, Kelly, Roberts, de Jesus

(Prenzoski 74)

BREAKERS: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts (Umlil 31),

McManus, Sprod (Owens 72), Ritchie, M Wilson

(Sanderson 72), Buonavoglia, Shannon, Haythorn-

thwaite, Yoon

Wollongong Wolves 0 Melbourne Knights 0

Venue: Brandon Park

Crowd: 2,728

Referee: B Hugo

Cautions: Younis, Stanton WOLL

WOLVES: Pogliacomi, G Souris, Ceccoli,

Stanton, Horsley, Brooks (Petrovski 59), Surjan,

Chipperfield, Spencer, Masi (Younis 19), Red

(Huxley 73)

KNIGHTS: Didulica, Nasteviski, Jolic, Vukadin,

Susa, H Karl (Deak 67), Kelic, Kiratzoglou, Kutle-

sovski, Magdic (Matkovic 89), Collina

ROUND 18

Friday 29 January

Northern Spirit 1 Sydney United 2

Scorers: K Marusic 68 SPRT; Burns 44, Griffiths

83 SUTD

Venue: North Sydney Oval

Crowd: 17,024

Referee: G Connolly

Cautions: J Vrkic 39, Plesa 41, Griffiths 83 SUTD

Sunday 30 January

Perth Glory 0 Newcastle Breakers 1

Scorer: J Buonavoglia 15

Venue: Perth Oval

Crowd: 10,464

Referee: P Mur

Cautions: G Circati PRTH 18, B Wiczorek

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Northern Spirit	15	11	1	3	30	11	34
2 Marconi Fairfield	15	9	5	1	46	12	32
3 AIS	14	9	4	1	51	11	31
4 Sydney Olympic	15	9	2	4	40	17	29
5 QAS	14	9	1	4	44	18	28
6 Newcastle Breakers	14	8	4	2	27	14	28
7 Wollongong Wolves	12	8	1	3	28	11	25
8 NSWIS	12	7	3	2	27	7	24
9 Sydney United	15	6	3	6	27	22	21
10 Marconi Fairfield Colts	14	5	1	8	15	25	16
11 ACTAS	15	3	1	11	23	42	10
12 Sydney United Colts	14	3	0	11	15	43	9
13 Northern Spirit Colts	14	2	2	10	14	56	8
14 Sydney Olympic Academy	14	0	3	11	9	45	3
15 Wollongong Wolves Colts	14	0	1	13	3	65	1

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 South Melbourne	13	8	2	3	25	13	26
2 VIS	11	7	3	1	23	12	24
3 Carlton	12	7	2	3	28	14	23
4 Gippsland Falcons	14	6	2	6	23	23	20
5 Melbourne Knights	12	4	2	6	19	24	14
6 Bulleen Inter Kings	12	4	2	6	12	19	14
7 Albury Wodonga	12	0	1	11	12	37	1

NEWC 40, B Despotovski PRTH 87

Adelaide City 1 Canberra Cosmos 0

Scorer: D Mori 23

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Crowd: 4,176

Referee: L Prospero

Cautions: B Armour ADLC 42, D Kim ADLC 82,

N Kelly CNB 83, G Gonzalez 90 CANB

Carlton 2 Adelaide Sharks 2

Scorers: A Moriera 49, 81 CARL; J Gibson 16, D

Poimer 34 ADSh

Venue: Optus Oval

Crowd: 3,053

Referee: J Blaney

Cautions: P Souris 48 ADSh

Melbourne Knights 2 Gippsland Falcons 2

Scorers: A Kiratzoglou 73, I Kelic 86 MELK;

Perinovic 30, S Becvinovski 54 GIPS

Venue: Knights Stadium

Crowd: 3,665

Referee: M Shields

Cautions: P Magdic 24 MELK, M Perinovic 31

GIPS, A Kovacevic MELK 32, L Osman GIPS 58,

I Jolic GIPS 69, B MacNicol GIPS 89, B Cassar

GIPS 89, A Savage GIPS 90

Red Card: M Perinovic GIPS 69

Wollongong Wolves 2 South Melbourne 1

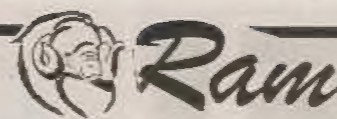
Scorers: M Horsley 54, 85 WOLL; og 71

Venue: Brandon Park

Crowd: 2,882

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

BELGIUM

Wednesday 27 January	
Standard Liege 2	Genk 4
Friday 29 January	
Club Bruges 2	Anderlecht 0
Saturday 30 January	
Charleroi 1	Ostend 1
Excelsior Mouscron 5	Lokeren 1
Sint-Truiden 2	Eendracht Aalst 0
Beveren 1	Lierse 3
Westerlo 0	Harelbeke 3
Genk 1	Ghent 0

ENGLAND

Monday 25 January	
English F.A. Cup fourth round	
Oxford (I) 1	Chelsea 1
(Replay Wednesday, February 3)	
Tuesday 26 January	
League Cup semifinal, first leg	
Sunderland 1	Leicester City 2
(Second leg - Wednesday, February 17)	
Division 2	
Bournemouth 3	Preston 1
Macclesfield 0	Millwall 2
Fulham 1	Oldham 0
Division 3	
Peterborough 1	Hull 1
Wednesday 27 January	
League Cup semifinal, first leg	
Tottenham Hotspur 0	Wimbledon 0
(Second leg - Tuesday, February 16)	
F.A. Cup fourth round	
Sheffield United (I) 4	Cardiff (III) 1
(Sheffield United away to Arsenal in the fifth round)	
Division 3	
Scarborough v Leyton Orient postponed	
Saturday 30 January	
Premier League	
Blackburn Rovers 1	Tottenham Hotspur 1
Coventry City 2	Liverpool 1
Everton 0	Nottingham Forest 1
Middlesbrough 0	Leicester City 0
Newcastle United 2	Aston Villa 1

Sheffield Wednesday 0	Derby County 1
Southampton 3	Leeds United 0
Wimbledon 0	West Ham United 0
Premier league	
1. Chelsea	22 11 10 1 34 18 43
2. Aston Villa	23 12 7 4 35 22 43
3. Manchester United	22 11 8 3 49 26 41
4. Arsenal	22 10 9 3 23 11 39
5. Leeds United	23 9 9 5 36 23 36
6. Liverpool	23 10 5 8 44 28 35
7. Wimbledon	23 9 8 6 29 33 35
8. Derby County	23 8 10 5 23 20 34
9. West Ham United	23 9 6 8 25 31 33
10. Middlesbrough	23 7 11 5 32 28 32
11. Tottenham Hotspur	23 7 9 7 29 31 30
12. Leicester City	23 7 9 7 25 27 30
13. Newcastle United	23 7 7 9 28 32 28
14. Sheffield Wednesday	23 7 5 11 25 23 26
15. Everton	23 5 9 9 13 25 24
16. Coventry City	23 6 5 12 23 32 23
17. Blackburn Rovers	23 5 7 11 22 30 22
18. Southampton	23 5 5 13 23 46 20
19. Charlton Athletic	22 3 8 11 26 36 17
20. Nottingham Forest	23 3 7 13 19 41 16

Division 1	
Bolton 2	Norwich 0
Crewe 1	Sheffield United 2
Huddersfield 2	Bristol City 2
Ipswich 1	Port Vale 0
Oxford 1	Barnsley 0
Queens Park Rangers 1	Portsmouth 1
Stockport 1	Wolverhampton 2
Swindon 1	Bury 1
Tranmere 3	Crystal Palace 1
Watford 2	Sunderland 1
West Bromwich 1	Grimsby 1

Division 2	
Blackpool 2	Macclesfield 1
Bristol Rovers 1	Colchester 1
Chesterfield 2	Wycombe 0
Fulham 2	Northampton 0
Lincoln 1	Bumley 1
Luton 2	Bournemouth 2
Millwall 3	Gillingham 3
Notts County 1	Reading 1
Walsall 1	Wigan 2
Wrexham 0	Preston 5
York 0	Oldham 1

Division 3	
Barnet 0	Swansea 1
Brighton 1	Peterborough 0
Cambridge 1	Carlisle 0
Cardiff 4	Brentford 1
Exeter 1	Plymouth 1
Halifax 2	Rotherham 4
Hull 1	Shrewsbury 1
Leyton Orient 3	Darlington 2
Mansfield 0	Chester 0
Rochdale 0	Hartlepool 1
Scunthorpe 5	Scarborough 1
Southend 0	Torquay 0

Sunday 31 January	
Premier League	
Arsenal 1	Chelsea 0
Charlton Athletic 0	Manchester United 1
Division 1	
Birmingham 2	Bradford 1

FRANCE

Friday 29 January	
Bastia 0	Rennes 1
Monaco 2	Paris St Germain 1
Girondins Bordeaux 4	Olympique Marseille 1
Saturday 30 January	
Strasbourg 0	Le Havre 1
Toulouse 1	Metz 0
Sochaux 1	AJ Auxerre 1
Lorient 1	Nantes 1
Nancy 0	Montpellier 1
RC Lens 0	Olympique Lyon 3

GREECE

Sunday 31 January	
AEK Athens 2	Olympiakos Piraeus 0
Ionikos 5	Ethnikos Astir 0
Apollon Athens 2	Xanthi 1
Panelefsiniakos 0	Iraklis Thessaloniki 1
Kavala 1	Paniliakos Pyrgos 1
Veria 4	Ethnikos Piraeus 3
Panathinaikos 1	OFI Iraklion 0
Panionios Athens 0	PAOK Thessaloniki 1

Aris Thessaloniki v Proodeftiki was postponed due to bad weather.

IRELAND

Sunday 31 January	
Shelbourne 3	Cork City 3
University Dublin 0	Dundalk 0
Saturday 30 January	
Finn Harps 2	Derry City 2
Sligo Rovers 0	Bray Wanderers 0
Friday 29 January	
St Patrick's Athletic 3	Shamrock Rovers 0
Waterford United 0	Bohemians 0

ISRAEL

Saturday 30 January	
Bnei Yehuda 3	Hapoel Kfar Sava 0
Maccabi Tel Aviv 4	Ironi Ashdod 0
Betar Jerusalem 2	Maccabi Petah Tikva 0
Hapoel Haifa 4	Ironi Rishon Lezion 0
Hapoel Beit She'an 2	Maccabi Haifa 1
Hapoel Petah Tikva 2	Hapoel Jerusalem 0
Friday 29 January	
Maccabi Jaffa 0	Hapoel Tel Aviv 1
Macacbi Herzliya 0	Zafirim Holon 0

ITALY

Tuesday 26 January	
Italian Cup quarter-final second leg match (league division in brackets):	
Bologna (A) 0	Juventus (A) 1
(aggregate 2-2. Bologna qualify on away goals rule)	
Wednesday 27 January	
Italian Cup quarter-final second leg matches	
Parma (A) 4	Udinese (A) 0
(Parma win 6-3 on aggregate)	
Thursday 28 January	
Italian Cup quarter-final second leg result Fiorentina (A) 1 Atalanta Bergamo (B) 0	
(Aggregate 3-3. Fiorentina win on away goals rule)	
Sunday 31 January	
Serie A	
Bari 1	Lazio 3

Cagliari 1	Juventus 0
Fiorentina 3	Vicenza 0
AC Milan 3	Salernitana 2
Parma 2	Venezia 2
Perugia 2	Sampdoria 0
Piacenza 0	Inter Milan 0
AS Roma 1	Empoli 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fiorentina	19	13	2	4	37	18	41
2. Lazio	19	11	5	3	40	21	38
3. AC Milan	19	10	6	3	31	23	36
4. Parma	19	9	7	3	33	17	34
5. Inter Milan	19	9	4	6	37	26	31
6. AS Roma	19	7	7	5	38	27	28
7. Juventus	19	7	6	6	20	19	27
8. Bologna	18	6	7	5	22	16	25
9. Bari	19	5	10	4	24	23	25
10. Udinese	18	6	6	6	22	27	24
11. Cagliari	19	7	2	10	30	33	23
12. Perugia	19	6	4	9	26	33	22
13. Piacenza	19	4	7	8	25	31	19
14. Venezia	19	4	7	8	15	26	19
15. Salernitana	19	4	4	11	17	32	16
16. Vicenza	19	3	7	9	10	25	16
17. Sampdoria	19	3	7	9	17	35	16
18. Empoli	19	3	8	8	16	28	15

Note: Empoli deducted two points for attempted match fixing

MOROCCO

Sunday 31 January	
FUS Rabat 1	Oujda 0
Raja Casablanca 0	Marrakesh 0
Meknes 2	Royal Armed Forces 0
Mohammedia 0	Widad Casablanca 3
Agadir 0	El Jadida 1
Sporting Sale 2	Jeunesse Massira 1
Khouribga 2	Widad Fes 0
Moghreb Fes 1	Beni Mellal 0

NORTHERN IRELAND

Tuesday 26 January	
Glenavon 2	Portadown 2
Saturday 30 January	
Ballymena United 0	Newry 0
Cliftonville 0	
Crusaders 1	Linfield 1
Portadown 1	Glenavon 1
Played on Friday:	
Coleraine 1	Glenavon 3
Monday 25 January	
Omagh Town 0	

PORTUGAL

Braga 0	Farense 0
Friday 29 January	
Beira Mar 1	Benfica 1
Saturday 30 January	
Farense 0	Porto 3
Rio Ave 1	Vitoria Setubal 1
Boavista 2	Campomaiorense 1
Tuesday 26 January	

SCOTLAND

Division 1	
Clydebank v postponed	
Division 2	
Forfar v Clyde postponed	
Stirling 1	
Division 3	
Cowdenbeath 0	Queen of the South 3
East Stirling 1	Brechin 2
Queen's Park 4	Dumbarton 2
Wednesday 27 January	
Premier League	
Dundee 0	Stenhousemuir 1
Division 3	
Berwick 2	Rangers 4
Saturday 30 January	
Premier League	
Aberdeen 2	Rangers 4
Dundee United 1	Dunfermline Athletic 1
Hearts 0	Motherwell 2
Kilmarnock 0	Dundee 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	23	15	5	3	47	21	50
2. Kilmarnock	22	11	8	3	30	12	41
3. Celtic	21	9	7	5	44	22	34
4. St Johnstone	22	8	9	5	28	28	33
5. Motherwell	23	7	8	8	23	29	29
6. Hearts	23	6	6	11	22	31	24

7. Aberdeen	23	6	6	11	25	39	24
8. Dundee	23	6	6	11	20	36	24
9. Dundee United	23	5	8	10	23	28	23
10. Dunfermline Athletic	23	2	13	8	18	34	19

Sunday 31 January
Celtic 5 St Johnstone 0

Saturday 30 January	
Division 1	
Airdrieonians 1	Hibernian 4
Greenock Morton 1	Stranraer 0
Hamilton 0	Falkirk 2
Raith 2	Clydebank 1
St Mirren 1	Ayr 0
Division 2	
Arbroath 0	Clyde 3
Inverness Thistle 2	Forfar 0
Livingston 1	Partick 1
Queen of the South 0	Alloa 0
Stirling 0	East Fife 1
Division 3	
Brechin 0	Berwick 3
Cowdenbeath 0	Queen's Park 0
Dumbarton 0	Ross County 0
East Stirling 2	Montrose 1
Stenhousemuir 1	Albion 2
Saturday 30 January	

SPAIN

Mallorca 1	Salamanca 0
Atletico Madrid 1	Valencia 2
Real Betis 1	Alaves 0
Athletic Bilbao 2	Real Zaragoza 0
Villarreal 0	Real Madrid 2
Oviedo 2	Real Sociedad 1

WALES

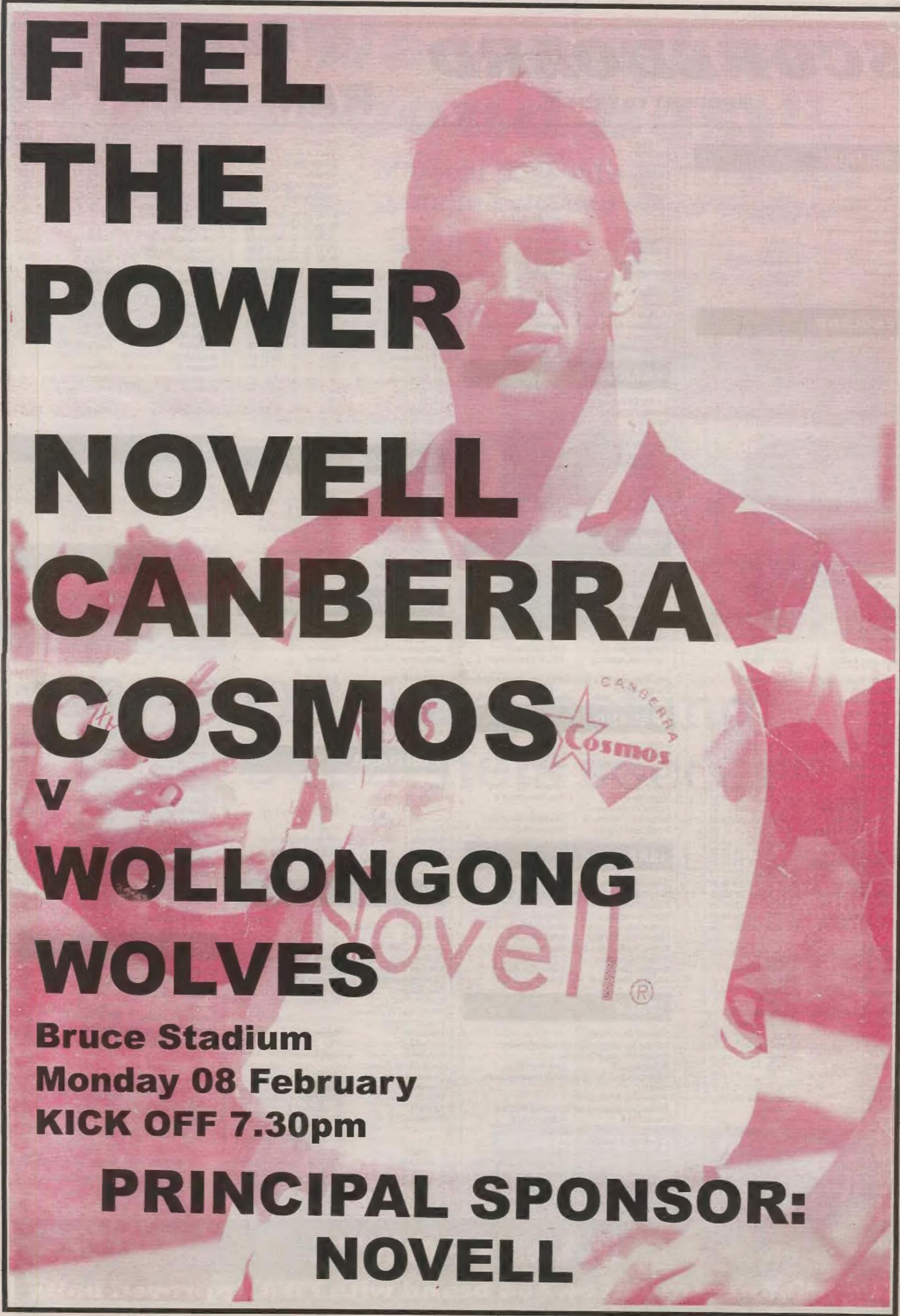
Wednesday 27 January	
Aberystwyth 2	Rhayader Town 1
Conwy 2	Rhyl 1
Saturday 30 January	
Aberystwyth 2	Connah's Quay 1
Afan Lido 0	Conwy 1
Bangor City 3	Haverfordwest 0
Barry Town 5	Caersws 2
Carmarthen Town 0	
Cwmbran 0	Caernarfon Town 0
Holywell Town 0	ICT Cardiff 0
Rhyl 0	Newtown 3
TNS Llansantffraid 3	
P W D L F A Pts	
1. Barry Town	19 15 2 2 59 14 47
2. ICT Cardiff	21 10 6 5 35 17 36
3. Aberystwyth	19 10 6 3 32 25 36
4. Cwmbran	18 9 5 4 39 22 32
5. TNS Llansantffraid	20 8 8 4 38 23 32
6. Newtown	19 8 7 4 31 20 31
7. Caernarfon Town	19 6 9 4 24 29 27
8. Conwy	19 7 5 7 29 31 26
9. Bangor City	19 7 4 8 25 27 25
10. Caersws	19 6 5 8 28 39 23
11. Carmarthen Town	18 6 4 8 24 25 22
12. Haverfordwest	20 5 5 10 31 36 20
13. Connah's Quay	16 4 5 7 16 23 17
14. Rhyl	20 5 2 13 26 51 17
15. Afan Lido	17 4 4 9 13 25 16
16. Holywell	20 2 9 9 22 47 15
17. Rhayader Town	17 3 4 10 21 39 13

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday 27 January	
Malta 2	Bosnia 1
Sunday 28 January	
Venezuela	Denmark 1
January 31 January	
Vietnam 1	Russia 0

RAM SPORTS

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NOVELL
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COSMOS
v
WOLLONGONG
WOLVES**

Bruce Stadium

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